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10¢

AND TO THINK I BELIEVED
YOUR LIES...GAVE YOU MY
LOVE! NOW IT'S UP TO THE
BLACK LEOPARD...BECAUSE
IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU,
NOBODY CAN!

ALL-GLAMOR
ISSUE!
VOTE for YOUR LOVE
COURAGEOUS HEART
LOVE IS BLIND
...and other
FEATURES!





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Name

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VOTE for Your LOVE!

I'M EILEEN MORRIS -- THE GIRL WHO THOUGHT SHE KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS! BUT WHEN IT CAME TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ALL, I WAS OUT OF ANSWERS! WHICH WAY TO CAST MY **VOTE FOR LOVE?** SHOULD I CAST MY BALLOT ON THE TICKET OF **SECURITY**-- OR **ROMANCE?** YES, I WAS OUT TO ELECT A **HUSBAND**-- AND THE STORY OF MY CAMPAIGN IS THE TALE OF A WOMAN'S ANGUISHED HEART!

BALLOT FOR BLISS

DANIEL HORTON
CONVENTION
Rising young political star running on platform of **ROMANCE**.
Vote YES or NO in square at right.

JON BALDWIN
Wealthy, sophisticated newspaper publisher who offers a life of paradise to his heart's choice.
Vote YES or NO in square at right.

HI THERE, BEAUTIFUL!

HEY, GORGEOUS! HOW ABOUT STEPPING OUT WITH ME TONIGHT?

WOO! WOO!

"Yes, the wolves were at it again--and I loved it! What a thrill to be a noted newspaperwoman at the **DAILY METROPOLITAN**--yet still young and beautiful enough for admiration! It helped still the loneliness, the desire for **REAL** romance, that dwelt deep within me..."

COME ON, EILEEN--WHEN ARE YOU GONNA WEAKEN AND FALL FOR ONE OF US?

FORGET IT, PAL! I'M MARRIED TO MY **COLUMN**--AND I HEAR IT CALLING ME!

WOMAN'S PAGE
EDITOR
EILEEN MORRIS

GOSH, IT'S NOT EASY. PUTTING THEM OFF -- HOW I WANT A GUY OF MY OWN! BUT THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I'M A REAL SUCCESS! I -- I HOPE THESE **POLITICAL** COLUMNS I'M GOING TO LAUNCH WILL DO THE JOB!



"Politics were a new field for me -- something I could tackle with all the fervor of a crusading heart!"



"I'd hoped my column would create a stir! But not even in my wildest dreams had I anticipated the disturbance it would arouse in a certain office..."

J.B. TALKING! LISTEN -- WHO IS THIS EILEEN MORRIS ON MY PAPER? NO, DON'T TELL ME -- JUST GET HER INTO MY OFFICE RIGHT AWAY!

YESSIR, J.B. -- IMMEDIATELY, J.B.!

A WOMAN'S VIEW BY EILEEN MORRIS



"J.B. -- Jon Baldwin, the paper's publisher -- wanted to see ME! Always, that meant **DISMISSAL!** Fearfully, I entered the sacred portals..."

YOU S-SENT FOR ME, SIR?

ARE YOU EILEEN MORRIS? COME IN, MY DEAR -- COME IN! I WON'T BITE YOU -- AND DON'T CALL ME SIR!



"Was **THIS** the man I had dreaded -- this handsome and polished person who strove to put me at ease -- who thrilled me with the tenderness of his glance?"

I SENT FOR YOU BECAUSE YOUR COLUMN WAS THE BEST THING WE'VE PUBLISHED IN YEARS -- AND I WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE! AND NOW THAT I HAVE SEEN, THERE'S MORE I'D LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT YOU -- SHALL WE SAY AT DINNER TONIGHT?

WHY, I'D BE -- DELIGHTED!



"That dinner date marked an epoch in my life -- and the dawning of an era of sheerest delight! For Jon sought my company constantly -- and brought to our meetings a charm and fascination I'd never before encountered in **ANY** man!"



"Then -- one starlit night..."

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOUR COLUMNS, EILEEN! I'VE LEARNED OF THE ENORMOUS FOLLOWING YOU HAVE AMONG WOMAN READERS AND YOUR SUPERB REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND INTEGRITY -- BUT I THINK YOU'RE WASTING YOURSELF ON THE WOMAN'S PAGE! AS OF TONIGHT, I'M **DOUBLING** YOUR SALARY ---



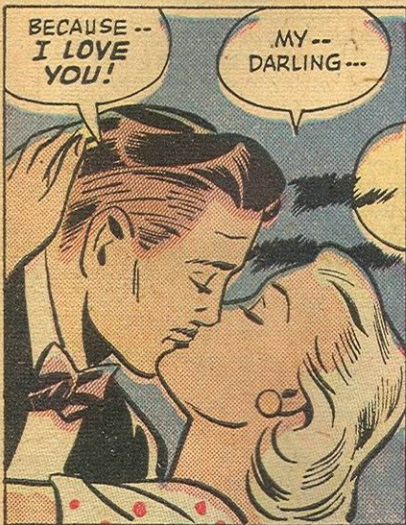
...AND I'M MAKING YOU THE PAPER'S **ACE POLITICAL COLUMNIST!** YOU'LL COVER THE GUBERNATORIAL CONVENTION -- AND YOUR ARTICLES WILL HELP ASSURE THE ELECTION OF A DECENT ADMINISTRATION!

OH, JON -- IT SOUNDS **WONDERFUL!** BUT -- BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE SO MUCH FAITH IN ME?



BECAUSE -- I LOVE YOU!

MY -- DARLING ---



"What was this feeling, such as I had never experienced? What magic was it that set my heart racing to the feel of his lips and arms? I knew only one thing -- that I'd found the man of my dreams -- **JON BALDWIN!**"



I **KNOW** YOU'LL LIVE UP TO MY LOVE AND FAITH IN YOU, DEAREST! YOUNG DANIEL HORTON'S SURE TO BE NOMINATED! HE'LL MAKE AN HONEST AND FEARLESS GOVERNOR -- AND HE'LL BE ELECTED IF YOUR ARTICLES CAN SWING PUBLIC OPINION HIS WAY! AND AS SOON AS HE WINS OUT, OUR WORK FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT WILL BE FULFILLED -- **AND WE CAN BE MARRIED!**

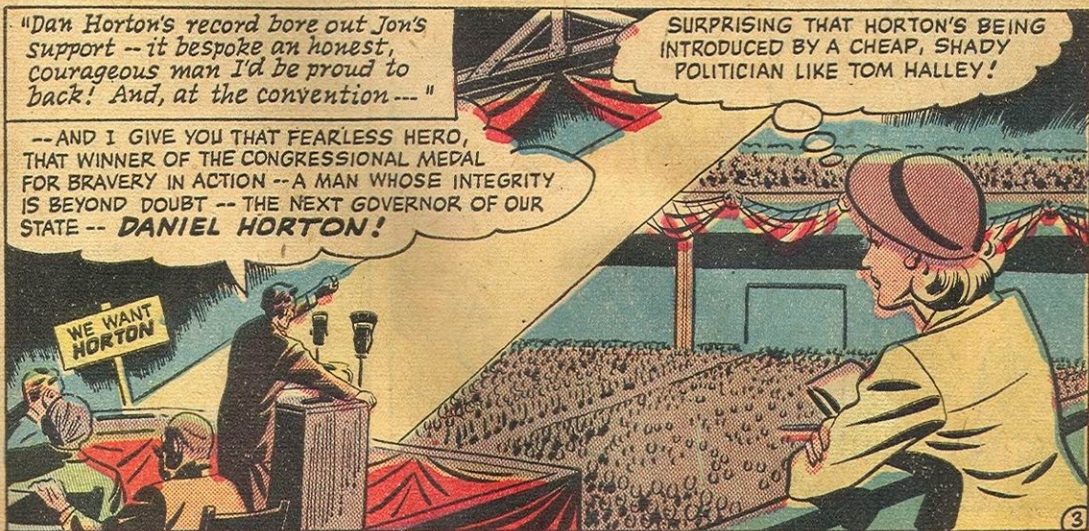
IF YOU SAY HE'S THE MAN -- **THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW, DARLING!**



"Dan Horton's record bore out Jon's support -- it bespoke an honest, courageous man I'd be proud to back! And, at the convention ---"

--AND I GIVE YOU THAT FEARLESS HERO, THAT WINNER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL FOR BRAVERY IN ACTION -- A MAN WHOSE INTEGRITY IS BEYOND DOUBT -- THE NEXT GOVERNOR OF OUR STATE -- **DANIEL HORTON!**

SURPRISING THAT HORTON'S BEING INTRODUCED BY A CHEAP, SHADY POLITICIAN LIKE TOM HALLEY!



"Then, as if Horton's name was a cue for a wild demonstration..."

**WE WANT HORTON!
WE WANT HORTON!**

THIS ISN'T
SPONTANEOUS --
IT LOOKS LIKE A
SKILLFULLY PLANNED
OUTBURST -- ORGANIZED
AND FINANCED ON
A BIG SCALE!

"But the demonstration
turned the trick -- delegates
didn't dare vote against a
candidate with such
support! And when Dan
Horton appeared to accept
the nomination --"

MY FRIENDS, I THANK
YOU FOR YOUR HONOR
AND TRUST -- **I WON'T
LET YOU DOWN!**



I'M AN AMATEUR IN POLITICS, AND THIS
IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER RUN FOR
OFFICE -- BUT I KNOW MY DUTY TO
THE CAUSE OF DECENT GOVERNMENT!
IF ELECTED, I PROMISE TO
RESTORE HONESTY AND
EFFICIENCY TO OUR
ADMINISTRATION!

HE'S --
HANDSOME!
THERE'S COURAGE,
FRANKNESS,
STRENGTH IN HIS
FACE! JON WAS RIGHT --
HE SHOULD MAKE A
WONDERFUL
GOVERNOR!

"I couldn't forget his powerful
speech -- and my enthusiasm
poured into the most heartfelt
column I'd ever written!"

"A NEW, GLORIOUS BATTLE-CRY OF
DEMOCRACY RESOUNDED YESTERDAY --
ONE DESTINED TO ECHO IN OUR HEARTS!
IT WAS '**WE WANT HORTON!**' --
A SLOGAN OF HONESTY AND STRENGTH
THAT WILL RING THROUGH THE
CORRIDORS OF HISTORY. FOR HERE
IS A MAN WE CAN TRUST -- A MAN
WE SHOULD **VOTE FOR!**"



"Next day --"

YOUR COLUMN WAS A
MASTERPIECE -- I **KNEW**
I COULD DEPEND ON YOU!
YOU'LL COVER HORTON'S
BARNSTORMING CAMPAIGN
AROUND THE STATE -- **AND
KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK!**

BUT JON --
IT'LL MEAN BEING
AWAY FROM YOU
SO LONG!

I'LL MISS YOU TERRIBLY -- BUT
WE MUSTN'T BE SELFISH! IT'S
OUR DUTY TO GOOD GOVERNMENT --
AND ONCE THE ELECTION'S OVER,
WE'LL HAVE A LIFETIME
TOGETHER!

OF COURSE!
I -- MUSTN'T
BE SELFISH!



"And so I joined the campaign
train, drowning my loneliness
for Jon in the thrill of close-
ness to that rising young
political star, Dan Horton!"

-- AND THIS IS THE REPORTER
FROM THE DAILY METROPOLITAN,
DAN, **MISS
EILEEN
MORRIS!**

YOU MEAN **YOU'RE**
THE GIRL WHO GAVE
ME THAT WONDERFUL
WRITEUP? I NEVER
SUSPECTED YOU'D BE
SO -- SO **LOVELY!**



DO YOU MIND IF I CALL YOU -- **EILEEN?** I'VE GOT A FEELING YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY INSPIRATION IN THIS CAMPAIGN!

GOLLY, HE'S GOT -- A WAY WITH HIM! SILLY HOW HE MAKES MY HEART THUMP -- I GUESS THAT'S THE PERSONALITY THAT'LL GET HIM **VOTES!**



"At every whistle stop, it was the same story -- banners, placards, flashily-uniformed bands that suddenly appeared as if from nowhere! It was slick and professional, with whipped-up enthusiasm assured by lavish expenditures!"

WHERE'S ALL THE MONEY COME FROM FOR THESE WELL-ORGANIZED RALLIES? DAN MAY BE A POOR POLITICAL AMATEUR -- BUT RICH, EXPERIENCED **POLITICIANS ARE BEHIND ALL THIS!**



"Finally, I took the plunge -- and asked!"

WHERE DOES THE CAMPAIGN MONEY COME FROM? I NEVER BOTHERED TO ASK, EILEEN -- I JUST ASSUMED IT WAS FROM FOLKS INTERESTED IN GOOD GOVERNMENT! WHY DON'T YOU ASK MY MANAGER, TOM HALLEY?



"But when I tackled Halley --"

OH, **NOSEY**, HUH? LISTEN, SISTER, YOU'RE BEING PAID TO WRITE COLUMNS -- SO **FORGET** ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN MONEY, SEE?

LET ME -- GO! YOU'RE -- HURTING ME!



"I was indignant, suspicious--and there was only one thing to do!"

--and although Dan Horton seems sincere, one wonders about the honesty of his monied backers. If the source of the huge sums being spent in his campaign is kept secret, perhaps it's because this source is a corrupt one!

THERE! WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN **THIS BREAKS!**



"And when Dan Horton saw a copy of my article --"

EILEEN -- WHY DID YOU DO IT? I -- I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED SO MUCH IF IT HAD BEEN WRITTEN BY ANYONE ELSE! BUT **YOU** DISTRUSTING ME! IT HURTS -- BECAUSE --



DON'T YOU KNOW --
I LOVE YOU SO?



"This COULDN'T be happening -- not to ME, who knew her heart, knew her love! I was Jon Baldwin's girl, awaiting marriage and a life of luxury!"

Then why the fierce pounding of my pulses, the soul-searing ecstasy that flooded to the very core of my being -- in the arms of ANOTHER MAN? Then -- a jeering voice brought me back to reality!"

BOYBOY -- WOTTA SHOT! THAT KISS'LL BE SPLASHED OVER THE FRONT PAGE OF EVERY OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER, HORTON -- AND YOU'LL BE A DEAD DUCK!

NO!
YOU -- YOU CAN'T --



"I'd NEEDED something like this to restore me to my senses! What a fool I'd almost been! But I had to escape this crazy temptation -- return to the man I knew REALLY loved me --"

YOU -- YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT! IT'S BEST THAT WE NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN -- I'M LEAVING --

DON'T, EILEEN -- NOT WHEN I NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER! COME BACK!



"'COME BACK!' His anguished cry kept echoing in my heart on my way back to the city -- to JON! And before I reached the DAILY METROPOLITAN --"

OH-OH! THE OPPOSING PAPERS HAVE THAT PICTURE ALREADY -- AND WHAT A CAPTION! ... "ELECTION ECSTASY -- HERE'S WHY EILEEN MORRIS, PROMINENT POLITICAL REPORTER, HAS BEEN WRITING SO GLOWINGLY ABOUT CANDIDATE DAN HORTON! FLASH -- THEY'RE IN LOVE -- SO YOU CAN DISCOUNT WHAT SHE WRITES ABOUT HIM!" -- OH, HOW -- HUMILIATING!

NEWS DEALER



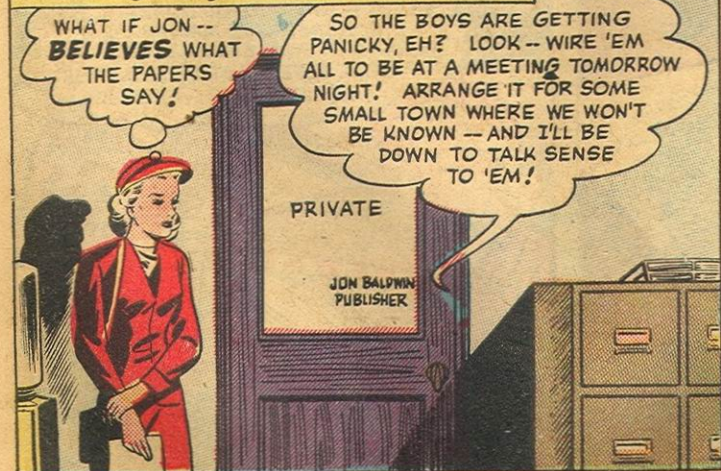
"Shame and anger fought for control of my seething emotions -- only to be replaced by growing anxiety!"

WHAT IF JON -- BELIEVES WHAT THE PAPERS SAY!

SO THE BOYS ARE GETTING PANICKY, EH? LOOK -- WIRE 'EM ALL TO BE AT A MEETING TOMORROW NIGHT! ARRANGE IT FOR SOME SMALL TOWN WHERE WE WON'T BE KNOWN -- AND I'LL BE DOWN TO TALK SENSE TO 'EM!

PRIVATE

JON BALDWIN
PUBLISHER



HELLO --
DARLING!

EILEEN --
IT'S YOU!



"The warmth of his embrace showed that he **STILL** loved me! THIS was no silly, temporary infatuation -- it was the man who'd be mine for always!"

HOLD ME -- CLOSER, DEAR!

GLADLY -- YOU'VE HAD ME **WORRIED!** WHY'D YOU EVER WRITE THAT INSANE ARTICLE ATTACKING HORTON'S CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS? IF I'D SEEN IT FIRST, I ---

IS -- **THAT** ALL YOU'VE WORRIED ABOUT? HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE **LATEST** PAPERS?

SURE -- **SO WHAT?** YOU'VE GOT MY PERMISSION TO KISS HORTON **ANY** TIME -- IT'S GREAT PUBLICITY! WHY, ACTUALLY, YOUR WOMEN READERS WILL THINK MORE HIGHLY OF HIM THAN EVER IF THEY BELIEVE HE'S IN LOVE WITH THEIR FAVORITE COLUMNIST!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN -- JEALOUS? HOW DO YOU KNOW -- I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH **HIM?** DON'T YOU CARE IF SOMEONE ELSE -- KISSES ME?

DARLING -- HOW CAN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! I **TRUST YOU --** AND IF YOU DOUBT MY LOVE FOR YOU --

-- THEN -- MAYBE **THIS** WILL CONVINCE YOU -- **FOR ALWAYS!**

I'VE **GOT** TO BELIEVE HIM -- DOESN'T HE MEAN **EVERYTHING** TO ME? NO -- I CAN'T DOUBT HIM ---

THERE -- EVERYTHING'S SET BETWEEN US NOW, EH? AND IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU'LL UNDO THE DAMAGE WHICH YOUR ARTICLE DID TO HORTON'S CAMPAIGN! WE'VE **GOT** TO HELP ALONG THE CAUSE OF GOOD GOVERNMENT, YOU KNOW! SO, IF YOU'LL REJOIN THE CAMPAIGN TOUR -- AND KEEP WRITING THOSE RAVE COLUMNS ABOUT HORTON --

ALL RIGHT, JON! IF THAT'S -- HOW YOU WANT IT --

"And so I returned -- doubtful, afraid -- unsure even of myself --"

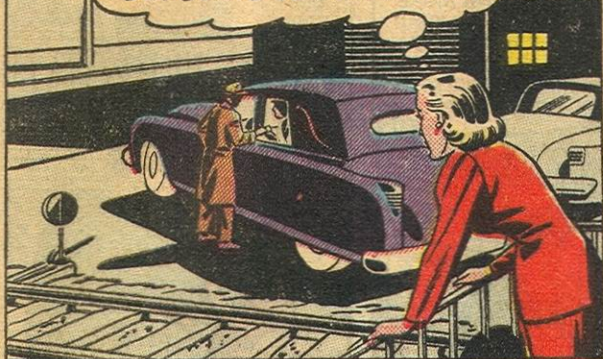
I -- I'M BACK, DAN! AND I'M -- SORRY I WROTE THAT ARTICLE CASTING DOUBT ON YOUR BACKERS! WILL YOU -- FORGIVE ME?

WILL I -- AND AM I HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN! I GUESS YOU REALIZE NOW THAT I DON'T EVEN **KNOW** ANYTHING ABOUT CAMPAIGN FUNDS -- THAT HALLEY, MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER, SEES TO ALL THAT!

GOSH, I NEVER REALIZED WHAT A POLITICAL INNOCENT DAN REALLY **IS!** HE'S LETTING HALLEY HANDLE **EVERYTHING** -- AND MAYBE THAT'S GOING TO INCLUDE PATRONAGE AND POLITICAL SPOILS! JON WOULDN'T LIKE ME MEDDLING -- **BUT I'M GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON HALLEY!**

"I didn't know why Halley halted our campaign in a quiet town -- nor who the people in expensive limousines were that he conferred with furtively -- But --"

WHY, THAT'S **BILL TURCK** -- THE BIGGEST GAMBLER AND RACKETEER IN THE STATE! IT LOOKS AS IF SOMETHING'S REALLY COOKING -- **AND I'M GOING TO BE IN ON IT!**



HI, EILEEN!
WHERE YOU BOUND FOR?

SH-HHH! GLAD YOU'RE HERE, DAN -- JUST COME ALONG WITH ME AND KEEP AS QUIET AS YOU CAN -- AND DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS!



I DON'T GET IT! WHY'S HALLEY GOING INTO THAT OLD WAREHOUSE -- AND WHY IN BLAZES ARE WE FOLLOWING HIM?

QUIET!
MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE SOME ANSWERS SOON!



THAT'S HIS VOICE NOW! **LISTEN!**

OKAY, I GUESS EVERYONE'S HERE NOW -- AND IT'S TIME WE GOT THINGS STRAIGHT! NONE OF YOU HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE ABOUT THAT MORRIS DAME -- SHE WON'T NOSE AROUND ANYMORE INTO WHO'S PUTTING UP HORTON'S FUNDS! AND DUMB DAN DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT POLITICS TO ASK QUESTIONS!



WHY, THE---

SH-HH! LET'S HEAR THE REST!

WITH THAT HONEST FACE, HE'LL WIN BY A LANDSLIDE -- AND THEN **WE** MOVE IN! HE'LL BE RELYING ON **US** FOR PRACTICAL POLITICAL ADVICE -- AND HE WON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FAT JOBS AND PADDED CONTRACTS THAT'LL GO TO **OUR BOYS!** AND IF HE EVER GETS WISE, HE WON'T DARE OPEN HIS MOUTH -- NOBODY'LL EVER BELIEVE HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON!



POOR JON -- HE'LL BE SO SHOCKED! HE THOUGHT THE FORCES OF GOOD GOVERNMENT WERE BEHIND DAN -- BUT ALL THE BIGGEST RACKETEERS AND DIRTIEST POLITICIANS IN THE STATE SEEM TO BE HERE!

AND NOW I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE **MASTER-MIND** BEHIND OUR PLANS -- THE BRAINS BEHIND THE THRONE -- THE MAN WHO'LL GIVE ALL OF US A FAIR SHARE OF THE SPOILS...



-- **JON BALDWIN!**

OH, N-NO!

WE'RE BEIN' SPIED ON! GRAB 'EM!



"It was the end of my world -- the wreckage of all my most cherished ideals! I saw the whole dirty plot now -- and my heart broke as we were seized and dragged struggling within!"

JON! IT ISN'T TRUE -- TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE!

WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T OUR TWO LITTLE LOVEBIRDS -- FINDING OUT THINGS THEY'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING!

YES, MY DEAR -- **IT'S TRUE!** I CONFESS IT ALL -- I MADE LOVE TO YOU TO HELP TALK YOU INTO CLIMBING ABOARD THE HORTON BANDWAGON -- AND STAYING THERE! AND NOW YOU'VE LEARNED TOO MUCH, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING -- THE ELECTION'S ONLY TWO DAYS AWAY AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP YOU **LOCKED UP HERE UNTIL IT'S OVER!**



"What was there left for me now? Truth, faithfulness, honesty -- all had vanished! But wait -- there was **STILL** one man in whom I could repose my confidence -- **DAN HORTON!**"

HE'LL GET ME OUT OF THIS -- HE'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN DEPEND ON NOW! HE SAID HE LOVED ME, AND AT LEAST HE'S TO BE TRUSTED -- IN POLITICS OR IN LOVE!

AND AS FOR **YOU**, SMART BOY, WE'RE IN THIS THING FOR HIGH STAKES! YOU'LL GO THROUGH WITH THE CAMPAIGN AND YOU'LL PLAY BALL WITH US -- OR THERE MIGHT BE A SLIGHTLY FATAL ACCIDENT, GET IT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME**, PAL! **SURE** I'LL PLAY BALL -- IF YOU BIRDS HAD LET ME IN ON THE PLAN FROM THE FIRST, I'D HAVE STRUNG ALONG GLADLY! I DON'T CARE **HOW** I GET ELECTED -- AS LONG AS I BECOME **GOVERNOR!**

OH...DAN... YOU... TOO...

NOW YOU'RE TALKING -- GOVERNOR!

"It wasn't Eileen Morris who was pushed into a bare room -- but the wretched ghost of a woman whose heart had shriveled and died within her! Two men had claimed their love for me -- and each had betrayed me heartlessly! I was alone -- unloved --"

KEEP HER THERE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, DUTCH -- HANK'LL BRING GROCERIES EACH DAY! SHE'S NOT TO HAVE CONTACT WITH **ANYONE**... WE CAN'T RISK HER TALKING!

IF ONLY -- I COULD **DIE...**

"The hours flew by! Drenched with hot tears of despair and wrapped in aching grief, I somehow managed to live through the days until the dawn of election day, when curiosity aroused me from my despondency..."

THAT'S ODD -- I THOUGHT I HEARD TWO CARS DRIVE UP! IT'S TOO EARLY TO BRING THE GROCERIES! OH -- I WISH I COULD SEE WHAT'S GOING ON THROUGH THIS WINDOW!



Suddenly...

DAN --
YOU!

HURRY, EILEEN -- THERE'S
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS!
YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE -- I'VE
GOT A CAB OUTSIDE WITH
ORDERS TO TAKE YOU BACK
TO THE CITY! I'M HEADED
IN ANOTHER DIRECTION
-- **THE NEAREST
RADIO STATION!**

"Bewildered, I was hustled into a cab and driven
off! Obviously, they'd decided I couldn't do any
damage now that election day was already here!
Then, from the cab's radio ---"

FLASH! WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM
TO BRING YOU THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT!
IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, DANIEL HORTON, CANDIDATE
FOR GOVERNOR, WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT
STATEMENT ON ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION
STATIONS! ALL VOTERS ARE URGED
TO TUNE IN!

THAT DINER'S
GOT A TELEVISION
AERIAL, DRIVER!
STOP THERE!

"Puzzled, a growing excitement
seething in my heart,
I waited -- until --"

CITIZENS AND VOTERS!

THE POLLS ARE NOW OPENING
--AND BEFORE YOU GO OUT
TO VOTE, I WANT YOU TO
KNOW THAT I AM WITH-
DRAWING FROM THE GUBER-
NATORIAL RACE -- BECAUSE
I AM **UNWORTHY OF
HOLDING OFFICE!**

I HAD THOUGHT THAT HONESTY
AND SINCERITY WERE ALL A
CANDIDATE NEED TO SERVE THE
PEOPLE! I DIDN'T REALIZE
THAT AN INEXPERIENCED AMATEUR
LIKE MYSELF COULD HAND THE
STATE OVER TO THE FORCES OF
CORRUPTION THROUGH LACK OF
POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE! I'VE BEEN
A **DUPE** -- AND YOU, THE PEOPLE,
HAVE BEEN FOOLED! I WAS
HANDPICKED AS A NOMINEE BY
VICIOUS ELEMENTS LED BY JON
BALDWIN BECAUSE I WAS HONEST
BUT
DUMB!

"Husky with emotion, Dan's voice
went on, revealing the whole
plot! Courageously he was sacri-
ficing himself -- for the cause of
good government! HERE was a
man to trust -- to LOVE!"

--AND SINCE I AM
UNWORTHY OF THE GOVERNOR-
SHIP, I ASK YOU -- THE PEOPLE
WHOM I WOULD HAVE GIVEN MY
LIFE TO SERVE -- TO VOTE FOR
MY **OPPONENT!**

OH, DAN -- **DAN** --
YOU WERE --
WONDERFUL!

WOTTA
MAN -- AND
WHAT
GUTS!

"I sped back
to the city,
because I had
to vote --
FOR DAN!
And that
night, as the
amazing
returns
flooded
over the
wires --"

THIS IS TRULY THE MOST STUNNING
ELECTION IN HISTORY, FOLKS! FOR
DAN HORTON, AFTER BEGGING THE
VOTERS **NOT** TO VOTE FOR HIM,
IS SWEEPING THE STATE!
YES, THERE'S GOOD NEWS TONIGHT --
FOR DECENCY -- FOR GOOD
GOVERNMENT -- FOR THE PEOPLE!

**DAN! YOU DID
IT! YOU
DID IT!**

--AND RIGHT NOW, A HUGE VICTORY CROWD IS
GATHERING IN FRONT OF GOVERNOR HORTON'S
HOME, CHEERING
THE RESULTS!

I -- I'VE GOT TO SEE
HIM, IF ONLY FROM A DISTANCE
-- IN HIS MOMENT OF
TRIUMPH!

"And there he was -- the man whose courage had won through to sweeping victory! Dan Horton, the people's choice -- the choice of my heart ---"



I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS, FOR THE HONOR YOU'VE BESTOWED ON ME! BUT I FEEL THAT THE BEST WAY TO REPAY YOUR CONFIDENCE IS TO RUN ALL THE FORCES OF CORRUPTION, INCLUDING JON BALDWIN HIMSELF, RIGHT OUT OF THE STATE -- AND I'M GOING TO DO IT!

ATTABOY, DANNIE!



YES, THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE -- AND IT WOULD BE COMPLETE IF ONLY THE GIRL I LOVE COULD BE AT MY SIDE! YOU'VE ALL SEEN HER PICTURE IN HER NEWSPAPER COLUMNS -- YOU'VE SEEN THAT FRONT-PAGE PHOTO OF US KISSING -- SO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE! I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING SHE'S DOWN THERE AMONG YOU SOMEWHERE! PLEASE, ALL OF YOU, LOOK AROUND -- AND IF YOU SEE EILEEN MORRIS -- PLEASE ASK HER TO COME UP HERE!

"Crimson with embarrassment, I tried hiding my face, looking inconspicuous -- but --"

WHY ARE YOU HIDING, DEARIE? -- HEY! I'VE FOUND HER -- HERE SHE IS!

C'MON, SISTER -- THE GOVERNOR'S WAITING!



THERE YOU ARE, GOVERNOR HORTON -- YOUR BRIDE-TO-BE!

NO, DON'T! PLEASE LET ME -- OH, DAN!

EILEEN -- DARLING!



"And then we faced each other -- and the rest of the world ceased to exist! For two people who loved each other were together for now -- FOR ALWAYS!"

SWEETHEART -- I NEVER MEANT THOSE WORDS I SAID TO BALDWIN! I HAD TO PRETEND TO FALL IN WITH HIM TO SAVE YOUR LIFE -- I HAD TO WAIT UNTIL I COULD RESCUE YOU --

YOU'RE A REAL POLITICIAN ALREADY -- TALKING TOO MUCH! BUT AS A POLITICIAN, YOU SHOULD YIELD TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE -- HEAR THEM?

KISS HER!

C'MON, GOVERNOR!



I -- LOVE YOU, EILEEN! WILL YOU -- MARRY ME?

JUST TRY -- STOPPING ME!



"That's MY love story, reader -- and it's a story that's just begun! For I'm first lady of the state now -- and the first lady of the Governor's heart! I'd cast my vote for ROMANCE -- THE WINNING TICKET!"

SOMEONE DIFFERENT

PRISCILLA EVANS was plain tired and bored with it all. "Don't you see, Charley?" she explained, sipping her malt between sentences.

"No, I *don't*!" Charles answered stubbornly.

"We have the same date every week. First movies and then this old ice cream parlor. I want to see something more in life!" This last was a line from the movie they had just seen. "And that's why I'm not going out with you next week. I've accepted a date with Randy Williams!"

Charley was genuinely shocked. "Randy Williams is a *wolf*!" he said flatly. "Don't go out with him, Prissy...please!"

Priscilla assumed a super-sophisticated expression. "I can take care of myself!" she pronounced. "You're just jealous, because Randy has a car and wears a tuxedo whenever he wants to!"

All of Charlie's male pride rose to his defense. "All right!" he said. "Go ahead! Go out with him! See if I care!"

By the time Priscilla's date with Randy Williams rolled around, she had figured out a new hair-do and learned to apply lots of eye makeup. After all, she didn't want Randy to think she was just a little teen-aged hick.

And obviously, Randy did not think so as he held open the door of his bright red convertible and helped her in. "Mmmm," he made an appreciative sound, "you're a hep-lookin' chick, chick!"

He did not ask her where she would like to go. He just drove the car straight through town, fast, and out onto the highway. "There's a little roadside joint you'll like if you haven't been there already," he assured her.

The little roadside joint proved to be a small, dimly-lit tavern crowded with people who were making lots of noise and seemed to be drinking heavily. For the first time, Priscilla began to feel a little uneasy.

She didn't feel any better when Randy set a tall glass down in front of her and said, "Drink this, it's plenty strong!"

The first sip made Priscilla feel ill. "If you don't mind," she said faintly, "I don't feel very well. Would you mind terribly if we got back into the car? I...I need some fresh air!"

"I get it," Randy said wisely. He drove to the outskirts of town, where the streets were not bright with lights, and parked the car. "You want to get to know me better, is that it, baby?" He pulled Priscilla roughly into his arms and bent his face towards her.

Now Prissy was really sick... and frightened, too! Wrenching herself free, she blurted, "No! I don't care if I *never* get to know you better!" And then she ran.

Out of the car, down the streets, through town, and straight towards that wonderful ice cream parlor, where maybe...maybe...

He was there! Wonderful, dear, familiar, clean-cut Charley, all alone at the fountain, sipping a malt and looking miserably lonesome. Breathlessly, Prissy sat herself on the fountain stool next to Charley's.

"Oh, Charley," she gasped, and her eyes begged for comfort and forgiveness. "I'm back. You...you were right! I'm sorry! I'll never do it again!"

Charley's eyes began to smile at her. "Let's have another double-malt," he ordered grandly. "We can still make the movies tonight, Prissy!"

Love IS BLIND

JOHN
BELFI

THEY SAY ROMANCE IS EVERY GIRL'S DUE---THAT SOMEWHERE IN THIS WIDE WORLD, THERE'S A MAN FOR EVERY WOMAN! BUT WHO IS THERE FOR **ME?** OF WHAT USE MY BEAUTY---WHEN PEOPLE TURN FROM ME? YES, A HUNGRY HEART'S OF LITTLE AVAIL---WHEN YOU'RE---**BLIND!**



WOW---LOOK AT THAT SLEEPING BEAUTY, DAN! EVER SEE ANYONE SO LOVELY IN ALL YOUR LIFE?

NO ONE THAT BEAUTIFUL COULD BE REAL! COME ON---LET'S GO CLOSER AND SEE IF SHE'S A MIRAGE!



I WASN'T ASLEEP, AND WHEN I HEARD THE FRANK, UNASHAMED ADMIRATION IN THEIR VOICES, I FELT MY HEART BEGIN TO POUND---FOR ALL TOO WELL I KNEW HOW THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT!

LOOK---SHE MOVES---SHE IS REAL! IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT TO PALM BEACH, MISS, WE'D BE HONORED TO SHOW YOU AROUND!

THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, BUT I HAPPEN TO LIVE HERE---JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY!

WONDERFUL! COME ON---LET'S CELEBRATE OUR ACQUAINTANCE BY TAKING A DIP!





I...I'M SORRY
...I CAN'T GO
SWIMMING
WITH YOU!

PLEASE...WE'LL EVEN
BEG YOU! NOTHING
CAN BREAK UP THE BEGINNING
OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL FRIEND-
SHIP WITH TWO SUCH HAND-
SOME AND ELIGIBLE YOUNG
BACHELORS!



"BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT COULD BREAK
IT UP...SOMETHING THAT I HAD TO TELL THEM..."

I CAN'T TELL WHETHER YOU'RE
HANDSOME OR NOT! YOU SEE,
I...I'M BLIND!



BLIND? I...I'M
SORRY...WE...ER,
WE'VE GOT TO
RUN ALONG NOW!
IT WAS NICE MEET-
ING YOU!

YEAH, WE...WE'VE GOT
AN APPOINTMENT, BUT
YOU'LL BE SEEING US
AROUND...ER, I...I
MEAN, WE'LL BE
SEEING YOU
AROUND!
GOODBYE!

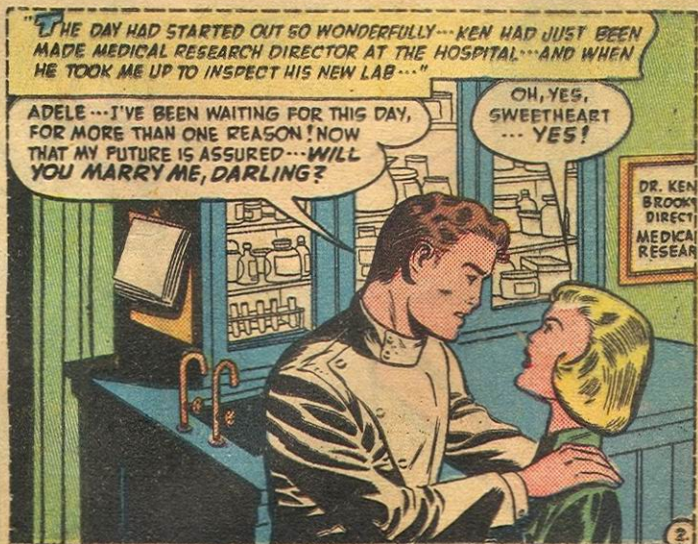
"ONCE AGAIN,
THE OLD WOUNDS
IN MY HEART
WERE TORN
OPEN AFRESH!
EYES THAT WOULD
NEVER SEE THE
LOVE-LIGHT IN
A MAN'S FACE,
NOR A HAPPY
INFANT'S SMILE
...THOSE BLANKLY
STARING, SIGHTLESS
EYES COULD
ONLY WEEP...
DESPAIRINGLY...
HOPELESSLY!"



MEN HAVE FLED FROM ME SO MANY
TIMES BEFORE THAT I...I OUGHT TO
BE USED TO IT BY NOW! BUT IT HURTS
MORE AND MORE EACH TIME! I...I'LL
NEVER BE LOVED...NO MAN WOULD
EVER WANT TO MARRY A BLIND GIRL,
NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL
SHE IS!



A BLACK, LOVELESS WORLD, WITH NEVER
A CHANCE AT A NORMAL LIFE OF
ROMANCE AND MARRIAGE...THAT'S
BEEN MY FATE EVER SINCE THE DAY IT
HAPPENED! IT...IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS
NOW...IT STILL BURNS IN MY MEMORY
AS IF ETCHED IN WITH SOME TERRIBLE
ACID...LIKE THE ACID THAT SEARED
ME THAT DAY IN KEN'S LAB!



"THE DAY HAD STARTED OUT SO WONDERFULLY...KEN HAD JUST BEEN
MADE MEDICAL RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT THE HOSPITAL...AND WHEN
HE TOOK ME UP TO INSPECT HIS NEW LAB..."

ADELE...I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY,
FOR MORE THAN ONE REASON! NOW
THAT MY FUTURE IS ASSURED...WILL
YOU MARRY ME, DARLING?

OH, YES,
SWEETHEART
...YES!

DR. KEN
BROOKS
DIRECTOR
MEDICAL
RESEARCH

"THIS WAS THE DAY I'D BEEN WAITING FOR...AND THE MAN I'D BEEN WAITING FOR! IT HAD BEEN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FROM THE MOMENT WE'D MET...SWEET, RAPTUROUS LOVE...AS ECSTATIC AS THE FERVENT KISS THAT NOW SEALED OUR ENGAGEMENT!"



OH, KEN, I LOVE YOU SO!

COME ON, DARLING. LET'S DRINK TO OUR HAPPINESS! I KNOW A DOCTOR ISN'T SUPPOSED TO DRINK, BUT ON THE DAY WHEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD MAKES ME THE HAPPIEST MAN, THERE'S AN EXCUSE!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR...BUT JUST ONE!



"BUT KEN DIDN'T STOP AT JUST ONE! DESPITE MY WORDS OF CAUTION, HE DRANK TOAST AFTER TOAST...TO OUR HEALTH, OUR HAPPINESS, OUR LOVE...TO EVERYTHING HE COULD THINK OF! AND THEN, AS HE WAS MAKING A PARTICULARLY EXUBERANT GESTURE..."

AND NOW, A TOAST TO...OOPS!

OH HH...MY EYES!



KEN...HELP ME! MY EYES...THEY'RE BURNING... TERRIBLY!

GREAT SCOTT...THERE WAS A POWERFUL ACID IN THAT BOTTLE! I CAN NEUTRALIZE THE DROPS THAT SPLASHED ON YOUR FACE, BUT IF ANY GOT IN YOUR EYES...! TAKE YOUR HANDS AWAY, ADELE...LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO!



"BUT THERE WAS NOTHING KEN COULD DO...EXCEPT CARRY ME FRANTICALLY DOWN TO A HOSPITAL WARD BELOW! THEN, HOURS LATER, AFTER THE DRUGS THEY GAVE ME HAD DEADENED THE PAIN..."

MISS POTTER, YOU'LL NEED ALL YOUR COURAGE TO HEAR WHAT I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU NOW! MEDICAL RESEARCH IS VERY CLOSE TO THE POINT WHERE IT CAN REPLACE DESTROYED OPTICAL NERVES...AND IN PERHAPS TEN OR TWENTY YEARS, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO OPERATE ON YOU AND RESTORE YOUR SIGHT!

YOU... YOU MEAN...?



YES...UNTIL THEN, YOU'LL BE BLIND...AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

NO...NO...IT CAN'T BE! KEN... KEN...WHERE ARE YOU? TELL THEM THEY'RE WRONG...TELL ME I WON'T BE BLIND! KEN...!

HUSH, DARLING...KENNETH ISN'T HERE! HE...HE TOOK IT PRETTY BADLY WHEN HE FOUND OUT YOU WOULD BE BLIND...HE RAN OUT SHOUTING THAT IT WAS ALL HIS FAULT...AND WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE!



"BEN---THE MAN WHO SAID HE LOVED ME---HE'D ABANDONED ME IN MY HOUR OF NEED! NOW I HAD TO FACE THE BOTTOMLESS PIT OF DARKNESS ALONE! WILDLY, UNCONTROLLABLY, HYSTERIA WELLED UP WITHIN ME!"



ADELE... YOU MUSTN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! YOU'RE HYSTERICAL!

I KNOW WHY HE RAN AWAY FROM ME--- HE DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO MARRY A BLIND GIRL! I--- I CAN'T EVER SEE HIM AGAIN--- BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM! I HATE HIM--- HATE HIM!

ADELE--- ADELE! WAKE UP--- I'VE GOT GREAT NEWS FOR YOU!

OH--- IT'S YOU, MOTHER! WHAT GREAT NEWS?



I JUST GOT IN TOUCH WITH A DOCTOR WHO CLAIMS HE CAN CURE YOU--- MAKE YOU SEE AGAIN! HIS NEW TECHNIQUE OF TRANSPLANTING OPTICAL NERVES HAS BEEN A SUCCESS IN ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS--- AND ALTHOUGH IT'S NEVER BEEN TRIED ON A HUMAN YET, HE'S SURE IT'LL WORK! COME ON AND MEET HIM--- HE'S WAITING AT THE HOUSE!

I'M NOT LETTING ANYONE EXPERIMENT ON ME! IF IT HAD BEEN TRIED ON SOMEONE BEFORE---



BUT SOMEONE HAS TO BE THE FIRST --- AND YOU'VE GOT TO MEET DR. CURRY RIGHT AWAY! THERE'S A CURB HERE, DEAR --- STEP DOWN!

I'M SORRY, MOTHER--- I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO BE A HUMAN GUINEA PIG!



BUT MOTHER INSISTED THAT I AT LEAST SPEAK TO THE DOCTOR BEFORE I MADE UP MY MIND ABOUT THE OPERATION, AND SO---

ADELE, I WANT YOU TO MEET ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT YOUNG RESEARCH DOCTORS IN THE COUNTRY--- THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE TECHNIQUE OF THE OPERATION THAT WILL RESTORE YOUR SIGHT TO YOU---



... DR. JAMES CURRY!

I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU, MISS POTTER! YOUR MOTHER PROBABLY TOLD YOU THAT SHE READ ABOUT MY SUCCESSFUL ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS--- AND WIRED ME TO COME HERE, SAYING THAT YOU'D BE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE FIRST HUMAN OPERATION OF ITS KIND!

YES, BUT I --- I'M AFRAID SHE WAS WRONG!



I DON'T THINK I COULD BEAR THE DIS-
APPOINTMENT OF HAVING THE OPERATION
FAIL! I'VE BECOME RECONCILED TO MY
BLINDNESS---AND IF I WERE TO
SUDDENLY HOPE AGAIN, AND THEN
HAVE THAT HOPE SHATTERED---I
---I THINK I'D RATHER **DIE** FIRST!



"**S** TURNED TO
GO, PAINFULLY
AWARE OF THE
SUDDEN
SILENCE THAT
HAD FALLEN ON
THE ROOM,
RELIEVED
THAT I COULDN'T
SEE THE LOOK
OF PITY WHICH
I KNEW MUST
BE IN DR.
CURRY'S EYES
AS HE GAZED
AT ME!"



WAIT, MISS POTTER
---LISTEN TO ME!

"MY HEART LEAPED SUDDENLY AT HIS WORDS, AT THE WARM
TOUCH OF HIS HANDS! BUT I DIDN'T DARE HOPE HE MEANT IT,
FOR HOW COULD ANY MAN BE INTERESTED IN ME?"

I'M STAYING IN PALM BEACH FOR A FEW WEEKS'
VACATION, AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T WANT ME
TO OPERATE ON YOUR EYES, I'D STILL LIKE TO
KEEP ON SEEING YOU---NOT FOR ANY PROFESSION-
IONAL REASONS, BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE SO
---**BEAUTIFUL!**



*Hurry---tell her you're
staying in Palm Beach
for a vacation, and
that even if she
refuses to be operated
on, you still want
to keep on seeing
her---not profession-
ally---but because
she's so
beautiful!*

BUT---BUT
MY **BLINDNESS**
---DON'T YOU
MIND THAT?

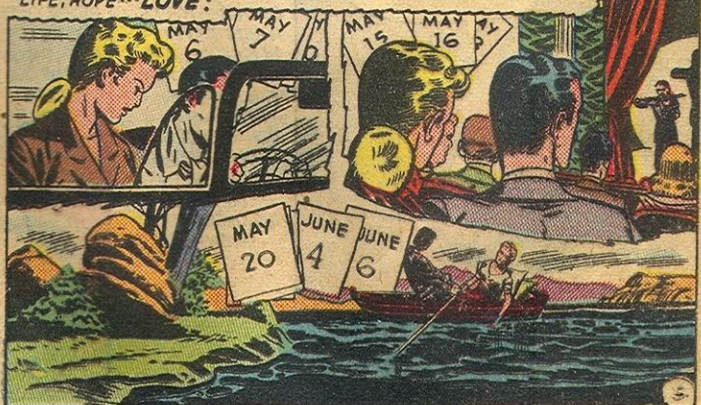
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING---**ADELE**---BUT
BLINDNESS IS NOTHING
TERRIBLE OR DISFIGURING
TO A **DOCTOR!**



WELL, IT WAS TO ONE DOCTOR
---BUT MAYBE HE WAS JUST THE
EXCEPTION! I---I'D BE **HAPPY**
TO HAVE YOU VISIT ME WHILE
YOU'RE IN PALM BEACH,
DR. CURRY---ER, **JIM!**



"**A**ND I WAS HAPPY IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED---
RAPTUROUSLY HAPPY! GONE WAS MY LONELINESS AND DESOLAT-
ION---GONE WAS THE TERRIBLE CONVICTION THAT NO MAN WOULD
EVER BE INTERESTED IN A BLIND GIRL---AND GRADUALLY, JIM'S
INFINITE TENDERNESS AND AFFECTION REAWAKENED ME TO
LIFE, HOPE---**LOVE!**"



"OCCASIONALLY, MY HEART WAS WRACKED WITH DOUBT --- WAS JIM REALLY INTERESTED IN ME AS A **WOMAN** --- OR AS A CASE HE WANTED TO OPERATE ON? BUT EACH TIME I FIERCELY TOLD MYSELF THAT HE WAS **SINCERE** IN HIS EXPRESSIONS OF AFFECTION, THAT HE WAS **TRUE** AND **LOYAL** --- NOT LIKE KEN, WHO HAD SO HEARTLESSLY ABANDONED ME!"



YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND AND TENDER, JIM... I'M **SURE** YOU COULD NEVER HURT ME THE WAY SOMEONE **ELSE** ONCE DID! IF --- IF ONLY I COULD **SEE** YOU... INSTEAD OF JUST HAVING TO **IMAGINE** HOW HANDSOME YOU ARE!

PERHAPS YOU **WILL** SEE ME SOME DAY, MY DEAR!

YES, THE DAYS GLIDED JOYOUSLY BY, AND EACH DAY DREW JIM AND ME CLOSER AND CLOSER TOGETHER!

KEN... YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE DRINKING SO MUCH! WHAT IF YOU GOT DRUNK, AND ADELE FOUND OUT YOU WERE HERE? AND WHAT IF SHE FINALLY AGREES TO THE OPERATION --- AND THEN JIM NEEDS YOUR HELP?

I... I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, MRS. POTTER... I JUST CAN'T STAND SEEING HER IN ANOTHER MAN'S ARMS! BUT MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... I **MIGHT** BE NEEDED DURING THE OPERATION!



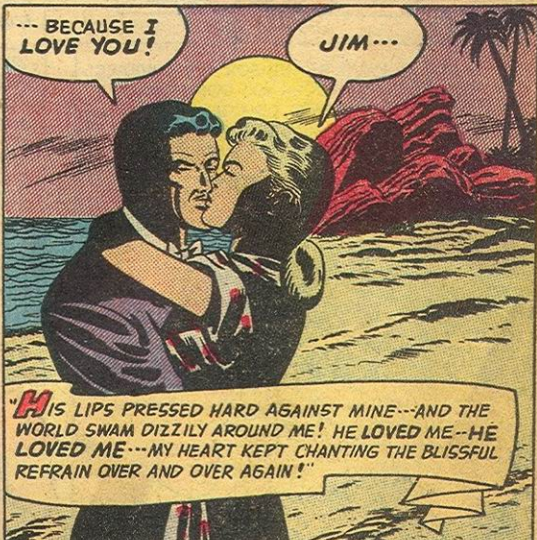
"THEN, ONE NIGHT..."

THERE'S A GLORIOUS FULL MOON OUT TONIGHT, ADELE... BUT SOMEHOW I CAN'T ENJOY IT, KNOWING THAT **YOU** CAN'T SEE IT! I WANT TO **SHARE** ALL THOSE JOYS WITH YOU... WON'T YOU **PLEASE** RECONSIDER UNDER-GOING THE EYE OPERATION? I'M NOT ASKING YOU OUT OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST... BUT BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO **SEE** AND BE **HAPPY**...



--- BECAUSE I **LOVE** YOU!

JIM...



HIS LIPS PRESSED HARD AGAINST MINE... AND THE WORLD SWAM DIZZILY AROUND ME! HE **LOVED** ME... HE **LOVED** ME... MY HEART KEPT CHANTING THE BLISSFUL REFRAIN OVER AND OVER AGAIN!"

OH, SWEETHEART... I **LOVE** YOU SO! OF **COURSE** I'LL GO THROUGH WITH THE OPERATION NOW... I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR LIFE BURDENED BY A **BLIND** WIFE!



"**TWO** WEEKS PASSED WHILE JIM HAD HIS SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS MADE TO ORDER... WEEKS WHICH I SPENT BLISSFULLY MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, WITH **BLIND** CONFIDENCE IN JIM'S LOVE AND ABILITIES! THEN --- THE DAY OF THE OPERATION DAWNED!"

I... I **KNOW** EVERYTHING'S GOING TO TURN OUT ALL RIGHT, JIM... BUT... BUT IS IT WISE FOR **YOU** TO OPERATE ON ME? ISN'T THERE A SAYING THAT A DOCTOR SHOULD NEVER OPERATE ON SOMEONE HE LOVES, BECAUSE HE MIGHT BECOME TOO EMOTIONALLY UPSET TO PERFORM DELICATE SURGERY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A **THING**, DARLING... JUST RELAX AND LET THE ANESTHETIST PUT YOU TO SLEEP!



"I FELT MYSELF SLIPPING DOWN... DOWN INTO THE SWIRLING DEPTHS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS!"

GOOD, SHE'S COMPLETELY UNDER THE ANESTHETIC... **KEN!** WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY **SHOULDN'T** I BE HERE... WASN'T IT I WHO SPENT TWO LONG YEARS SLAVING DAY AND NIGHT TO DISCOVER THE TECHNIQUE OF TRANSPLANTING OPTICAL NERVES? I ONLY BROUGHT YOU INTO THE CASE BECAUSE I KNEW I COULD NEVER PERSUADE ADELE TO LET ME OPERATE ON HER... EVEN IF I STAYED SOBER LONG ENOUGH TO BE **ABLE** TO! COME ON, JIM... I TAUGHT YOU ALL I KNEW... **START OPERATING!**

ALL RIGHT, JIM, EASY DOES IT... THIS IS THE MOST CRUCIAL AND DELICATE POINT!... **JIM... WHAT'S WRONG?**

I... I THOUGHT I WAS JUST TRYING TO TALK HER INTO THE OPERATION WHEN I TOLD HER I LOVED HER... BUT NOW I KNOW I **DO** LOVE HER! AND I... I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT JUST ONE SLIP OF THE KNIFE WOULD... WOULD...

ADELE WAS RIGHT... A DOCTOR SHOULD NEVER OPERATE ON SOMEONE HE LOVES! I... **I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT, KEN!**

YOU BLUBBERING FOOL... LET ME TAKE OVER! IF... IF ONLY MY HANDS WILL BE STEADY ENOUGH...

A HOUR LATER...

YOU WERE **WONDERFUL!** YOU'RE A SURGICAL ARTIST!

SAVE THE BOUQUETS UNTIL WE'RE **SURE** THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS... UNTIL SHE **SEES** AGAIN!

THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DID... NO MAN ALIVE COULD HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB!

"IT SEEMED LIKE HOURS LATER THAT I BEGAN COMING OUT OF THE SWIRLING MISTS OF OBLIVION INTO REALITY! SUDDENLY THERE CAME AN OLD, FAMILIAR VOICE FROM OUT OF THE PAST... SURELY I MUST STILL BE DREAMING!"

YOU'RE A DOUBLE-CROSSER, JIM! I TOLD YOU TO TRY TO PERSUADE ADELE TO UNDERGO THE OPERATION... BUT I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO MAKE LOVE TO HER... AND MAKE HER FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!

KEN'S VOICE! BUT IT... IT CAN'T BE!

BUT IT WAS THE **ONLY** WAY TO GET HER TO TRUST ME ENOUGH FOR THE OPERATION! AND ANYWAY, WHY SHOULD YOU CARE? YOU'VE TOLD ME YOU NO LONGER LOVE HER... THAT ALL YOU FELT FOR HER WAS **PITY!**

YES, I DID, BUT...

OH!!!

SHE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS! ADELE...WHAT'S WRONG?

GO AWAY... GO AWAY! I HATE YOU... I HATE YOU BOTH! I JUST WANT TO DIE...DIE!

SHE...SHE MUST HAVE HEARD US! ADELE...



THERE...I'M BENDING DOWN CLOSE TO YOU...CAN YOU SEE ME?

IT'S ALL BLURRED...I CAN'T MAKE OUT ANYTHING! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER! I WAS BLIND IN LOVE-- AND I MIGHT AS WELL STAY BLIND IN LIFE!



"THE AWFUL WORDS SHOCKED ME OUT OF MY LISTLESSNESS! DESPERATELY, MY HEART POUNDING IN FEAR, I STRAINED MY BLIND EYES TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON!"

"TWICE I'D LOVED...AND TWICE I'D BEEN BETRAYED! THE FIRST ONE MERELY PITIED ME...AND THE SECOND HAD UTTERED FALSE WORDS OF LOVE, MERELY TO SECURE A GUINEA PIG FOR HIS OPERATION! IT WAS THIS AWFUL SHOCK WHICH DROVE ME INTO A WEEK-LONG DELIRIUM..."

I CAN SEE THEM... THEY'RE LAUGHING! THEIR LOVE WAS A SNARE, A MOCKERY...AND WITHOUT LOVE, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE!



"FINALLY, MY FEVER WAS SPENT! THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE, BUT I KNEW ONLY A DULL SUFFERING!"

MISS POTTER, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR BANDAGES OFF TODAY... AND WHEN I DO, YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SEE!



I...I FAILED...THE OPERATION DIDN'T CURE HER! I...I CAN'T BEAR TO THINK OF THE GIRL I LOVE AS HOPELESSLY BLIND BECAUSE OF ME...!

KEN...PUT DOWN THAT GUN!



GET BACK...I'LL SHOOT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO SAVE MY WORTHLESS LIFE!

OH!! WHAT...WHAT'S HAPPENING...WHO...WHO WAS SHOT? OH, DEAR LORD, PLEASE...PLEASE LET ME SEE AGAIN!

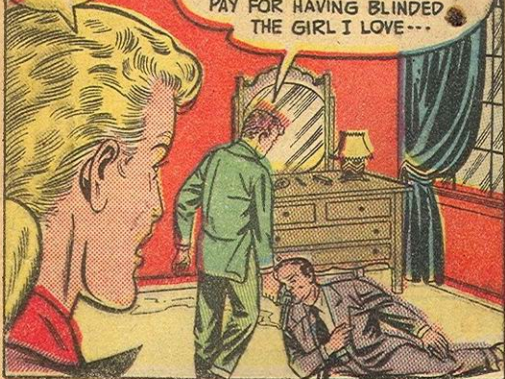
BANG!



"EVERY QUINCE OF WILL AND LONGING WENT INTO MY ATTEMPT TO SEE! AND THEN, SUDDENLY... IN A BLINDING BURST OF LIGHT..."

OHHH! I... I CAN SEE!

I---I'M SORRY, JIM---I HAD TO DO IT! BUT I'VE INFLICTED ENOUGH PAIN---NOW I'LL SQUARE THINGS WITH EVERYONE---MAKE MYSELF PAY FOR HAVING BLINDED THE GIRL I LOVE---



ADELE... YOU---YOU CAN SEE!

YES, DARLING---YOU DIDN'T FAIL---THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS! I---I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO SEE BEFORE, BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING IN LIFE I WANTED! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW YOU DO LOVE ME, I'VE GOT **EVERYTHING** I WANT---I'VE GOT **YOU!**



"YES I COULD SEE... AND NOW I ALSO SAW THE TRUTH FOR THE FIRST TIME! I REALIZED THAT KEN STILL LOVED ME... AND THAT I HAD NEVER STOPPED LOVING HIM! PANIC MADE ME HURTLE FROM MY BED... LOVE LENT WINGS TO MY FEET..."

KEN... DON'T!



ADELE... SWEETHEART! I---I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS---I COULDN'T BEAR TO LIVE WITH MYSELF UNLESS I SLAVED AWAY DAY AND NIGHT TO UNDO THE HARM I DID YOU---AND I GRAMMED TEN YEARS OF RESEARCH WORK INTO TWO WHILE PERFECTING A CURE FOR YOU! IF---IF I HADN'T SUCCEEDED, I---I---

I KNOW, DARLING... I KNOW! BUT LET'S THINK ONLY OF OUR FUTURE, LET'S FORGET ALL ABOUT THE TERRIBLE PAST---



JIM... I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JUST A FLESH WOUND---BUT ADELE'S FORGETTING ABOUT ME PROVES THAT SHE LOVES YOU, NOT ME!--I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, TOO, ADELE---BUT NOW THAT I SEE KEN'S THE MAN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY, I'M CONTENT TO COME OUT SECOND-BEST!



"YES, READER, THERE'S A HAPPY ENDING... BECAUSE ISN'T LOVE THE HAPPIEST ENDING IN THE WORLD? AND TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, IF YOU AREN'T **BLIND TO LOVE**, THEN NOTHING--NOT EVEN THE MOST SERIOUS AFFLICTION--CAN STOP YOU FROM HAVING THIS KIND OF A HAPPY ENDING!"



The END!

MATRIMONIAL MISTAKES

JUSTICE
OF THE
PEACE

EVERY GIRL DESERVES A LIFE OF LOVE, MARRIAGE AND HAPPINESS... BUT BEWARE OF THESE SHORT-CUTS TO UNHAPPINESS! DON'T RUSH OFF TO THE PREACHER AFTER THAT FIRST GLORIOUS KISS... BUT WAIT TO LET LOVE RIPEN IN ITS SLOW, NATURAL WAY... SO THAT YOU'LL BE SURE IT'S TRUE LOVE! YES, IF YOU DON'T WANT A LIFE OF MARRIED MISERY, WATCH OUT FOR THESE MATRIMONIAL MISTAKES!



FIRST, BEWARE OF LETTING YOUR HEART BE BETRAYED BY TOO ARDENT WOOLING! THE FACT THAT YOUR BOY-FRIEND KISSES IN IMPETUOUS, MOVIE-STAR FASHION DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU... IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR YOU TO REALIZE THAT THERE'S MORE TO TRUE LOVE THAN MOONLIGHT AND KISSES!



EVERYONE NEEDS LOVE AND AFFECTION, AND IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO FEEL A SURGE OF EMOTION WHEN SOMEONE EXPRESSES HIS LOVE FOR YOU! BUT IN CASES LIKE THIS, IF YOU'RE ONLY IN LOVE WITH THE IDEA OF BEING LOVED, AND NOT WITH THE PERSON... THEN THINK TWICE BEFORE RUNNING OFF TO THE ALTAR, OR YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF MARRIED TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T REALLY CARE FOR!

IF... IF HE LOVES ME AS MUCH AS HE SAYS, THEN I MUST BE IN LOVE WITH HIM!

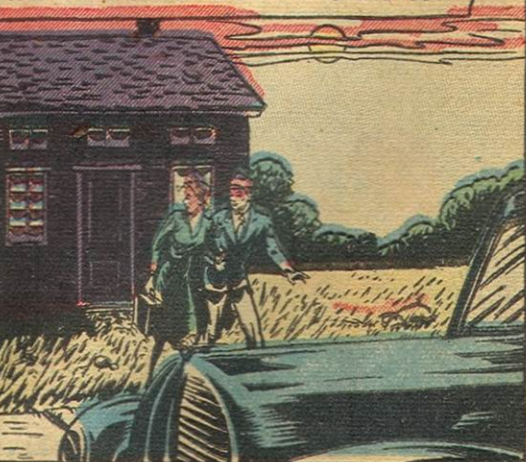


BEWARE OF GETTING MARRIED SIMPLY TO ESCAPE FROM AN UNHAPPY HOME LIFE OR AN UNPLEASANT JOB! FEW GIRLS WILL ADMIT TO ANY SUCH MOTIVE, EVEN TO THEMSELVES... BUT IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE COMMON... AND USUALLY LEADS TO AN EVEN UNHAPPIER LIFE!

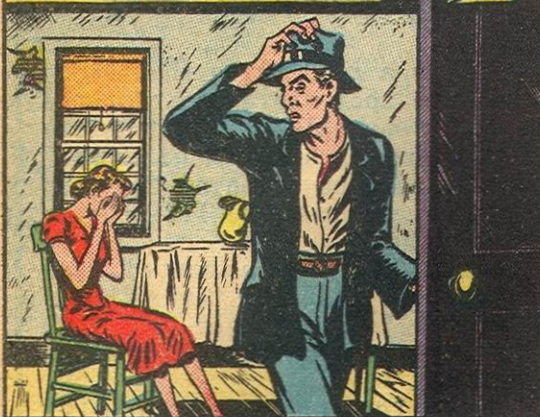
I... I CAN'T STAND LIVING HERE ANY MORE... OH, IF ONLY SOME MAN WOULD COME ALONG AND TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS!



SUCH A GIRL WILL LOOK HOPEFULLY AT ALMOST ANY MAN WHO SMILES AT HER... AND IS LIKELY TO ELOPE WITH SOMEONE WHOM SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT!



YES, IF YOU MARRY SOMEONE HASTILY BECAUSE HE'S PROMISED TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM IT ALL, YOU MAY FIND YOU'RE STUCK WITH A MAN YOU DON'T LOVE ---AND SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WALK OUT OF YOUR LIFE AS EASILY AS HE WALKED INTO IT!



---BUT IF HE'S PERSISTENT, AND THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND TO DATE YOU, YOU'RE LIKELY TO START ACCEPTING HIS INVITATIONS OUT OF PURE BOREDOM ---BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING BETTER TO DO!



THIS IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN TO ANY GIRL WHO GOES OUT WITH A MAN MERELY BECAUSE SHE'S BORED, RESTLESS OR LONELY! THE EASY WAY TO AVOID DRIFTING INTO MARRIAGE IS TO MAKE IT A RULE NOT TO GO OUT MORE THAN A FEW TIMES WITH ANYONE YOU WOULDN'T BE HAPPY TO MARRY!

I'M SORRY, ROGER, BUT I DON'T THINK WE OUGHT TO GO ON SEEING EACH OTHER! IT'S UNFAIR TO BOTH OF US TO TAKE UP EACH OTHER'S TIME ---WHEN NOTHING CAN COME OF IT!



BEWARE OF STILL ANOTHER SHORT-CUT TO UNHAPPINESS...DRIFTING INTO MARRIAGE!** AT FIRST, YOU MAY SCORNFULLY REJECT A SUITOR WHOM YOU'RE SURE YOU'D NEVER MARRY---**



AFTER A WHILE, IT'LL GET TO BE A HABIT! PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE ENGAGED ---AND YOU MAY FIND IT'S EASIER TO GO THROUGH WITH IT THAN BREAK THINGS OFF AND CAUSE A LOT OF GOSSIP! AND PRESTO --- YOU'VE **DRIFTED INTO A LOVELESS MARRIAGE THAT'S BOUND TO BE UNHAPPY!**



IF YOU'VE MANAGED TO AVOID THESE MAJOR MATRIMONIAL MISTAKES, IF YOUR ROMANCE HAS RIPENED NATURALLY INTO TRUE LOVE, THEN YOUR MARRIAGE HAS A WONDERFUL CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING ---AND MAY ALL YOUR **POINDEST DREAMS COME TRUE!**



You can't **FIGHT FATE**

FOR ALMOST two weeks now, Lucy Harris had felt like a first-class dope. "It was just a line, and I fell for it," she would say reproachfully to herself, every time Bob's name came into her mind.

They had met at a party and liked each other at once. Lucy had felt, in fact, that their meeting was an act of fate. They laughed at the same kinds of jokes, liked the same kind of food, enjoyed the same kind of movies and were perfect dance partners.

"Hey, I've been looking for a girl like you," Bob had whispered into Lucy's ear. "You can start checkin' all the other guys out, as of now! The first voice you hear tomorrow morning will be mine, on the phone, arranging a date!"

Lucy had been thrilled and happy. She had eagerly scribbled her full name, address and phone number for Bob. "It's a deal!" she had answered, laughing.

But the next morning, the phone had been silent and it continued being silent for two whole weeks. At first, Lucy had made excuses for Bob. He was busy, he was ill... oh, any number of excuses! It took about three days for Lucy to become very angry.

"What a dope I was!" she thought. "I believed him! Why, he probably tells the same thing to every girl he meets!"

Glancing at the clock, Lucy realized that it was almost half-past eight, time to leave for Bonnie Wilder's sweet sixteen party. As she gave herself a last-minute inspection, Lucy made one stern and final resolution.

"If I ever see Bob again," she vowed, "I'll snub him so hard, he'll think I'm an ice-cube!"

It was a good thing that Lucy had made that stern vow, for the instant she walked into Bonnie's living room, she saw him. Bob! He seemed to be scanning the door eagerly, and his face lit up when he saw her.

"Lucy! Lucy!" he shouted, dashing across the room toward her. "Gosh, I'm glad to see you! I've been hoping you'd be here, because..."

Lucy looked at Bob coldly. "Why don't you tell me about it some other time?" she suggested icily. "Why don't you phone me tomorrow?"

Her face was flame-red, but she held her head high as she walked right past Bob, who stared at her, open-mouthed. "I snubbed him, all right," she said to herself as she went to Bonnie's dressing table, in the powder room, to see if she really looked as awful as she felt.

"My hair's a mess!" Lucy said, opening her little black velvet party purse and groping for her comb. Her hand struck a small scrap of paper. As she examined it, Lucy's face turned red all over again. It was the scrap of paper on which she had scribbled her address and phone number for Bob! She'd never given it to him!

Disregarding her hair, Lucy fled from the powder room to find Bob. "Don't say a word," she admonished him. "It's all my fault! I'm sorry I was rude to you, Bob! It won't ever happen again!"

"I'm not worried," Bob grinned, escorting Lucy to the dance floor. "After all, I knew we'd make a swell pair... and you can't fight fate!"

CUPID HAILS A CABBY

"You've read stories about princesses and debutantes -- now prepare yourself for something **NEW!** This is no story of pent-house kisses -- instead, it's just the romance of a girl who drove a cab! Yes, it's **MY** romance -- the tale of my defeat, my mistakes, and the heartache which was my lot before I won the man of my dreams! Scan it carefully, reader -- for there's much in it that **YOU** should know!"



"As a cabby, I'd learned a lot about love and kisses--but it was **SECOND-HAND** knowledge, gained while watching romance pass me by in a rear-view mirror! Yes, I drove couple after couple to their first dates, then to their engagement parties and weddings, and finally to their honeymoons--while I could only watch, and eat my lovesick heart out with envy and longing!"



"But what was **WRONG** with me-- what was there about me that **REPELLED** love? I knew I was attractive-- because it was always easy for me to secure a date from any of the new males at my boarding house --"

YOU'RE A STRANGER IN TOWN, AREN'T YOU? MY NAME'S LINDA JACKSON-- BUT EVERYONE CALLS ME **LINDY**! IF YOU LIKE, I CAN SHOW YOU AROUND TOWN THIS SUNDAY!

WOW! NOTHING SHY ABOUT YOU, IS THERE, MISS JACK-- ER, LINDY? WELL, I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO BE A STRANGER TO A LOVELY GIRL LIKE YOU! IT'S A DATE FOR THIS SUNDAY!



"Yes, **GETTING** a date was always easy--but for some reason or other, no man ever wanted to take me out again after that first time, no matter **HOW** friendly I tried to be!"

YOU'D BETTER LET **ME** DRIVE -- NO ONE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND THIS BURG BETTER THAN I DO!

WELL, I--I...



"Of course, they always gave me an argument, but I knew they were merely trying to be **GENTLEMANLY** about it all-- and I was always firm in insisting that they just lean back and relax, and leave the work to me!"

THERE, I TOLD YOU THAT YOU'D ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE BETTER IF YOU LET ME DRIVE-- OH-OH-- WE'VE GOT A BLOWOUT!

DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU-- I CAN CHANGE THE TIRE IN A JIFFY!



"Again I knew he was merely trying to be polite! This was an opportunity to show him how self-reliant I could be -- as a **WIFE**!"

SEE? I'LL BET YOU COULDN'T CHANGE THE TIRE AS QUICKLY AS THAT!

NO, I COULDN'T-- BUT I--I THINK WE'D BETTER START HEADING BACK! I--I'VE GOT A PAIN IN THE NECK--ER, I MEAN A HEADACHE!



"Then, when I stood with pounding heart, ready for a thrilling good-night kiss..."

AREN'T YOU -- **FORGETTING** SOMETHING?

I THINK I CAUGHT A COLD-- I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO CATCH IT! GOOD-NIGHT, LIND--**MISS JACKSON!**



"Then followed days of bitter, brooding loneliness, spent in trying to understand why I was dateless once again, why I was a failure at romance--and why someone like Gloria Grant, that notorious husband-hunter who lived across the hall from me, always managed to steal my dates away!"

WHY, OF **COURSE** I CAN CARRY YOU OVER THAT PUDDLE, GLORIA---
THERE!

HOW...HOW COULD HE **FALL** FOR THAT LINE OF TRIPE?

OH, MY--- YOU... YOU'RE SO **STRONG!** YOU MAKE POOR, HELPLESS LITTLE ME FEEL SO SAFE TO BE WITH A **REAL MAN** LIKE YOU!



"And then, one evening, the answer came!"

GLORIA, DARLING--YOU'RE SO SWEET AND **HELPLESS** THAT YOU MAKE ME WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND PROTECT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE--- YOU'VE MADE ME **FALL IN LOVE** WITH YOU!

OHHH!



NOW I KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME --- WHY **SHE** SUCCEEDED WHERE I FAILED! I WAS ALWAYS TOO AGGRESSIVE, TOO DOMINATING --- I MADE MEN FEEL **INFERIOR** INSTEAD OF BUILDING UP

THEIR MASCULINE EGOS! MEN ALWAYS GO FOR THE HELPLESS, **CLINGING VINE** TYPE--AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GOING TO BE FROM NOW ON!



"I wasted no time! The very next day, I moved to an apartment house where no one knew my occupation! I began wearing more frilly, feminine clothes--and I met the man of my dreams!"

HE... HE'S SO **HANDSOME!** HE'S THE ONE I'LL TRY MY NEW APPROACH ON --- AND IT'S **GOT** TO WORK!



"After discreet inquiries and a week's observation, I learned that his name was **GENE TAYLOR**, that he was unmarried--and that he always came home from work at six! So, one evening..."

OH, I... I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR-- I'M DROPPING EVERYTHING!

HERE, LET **ME** HELP YOU, MISS!



I... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. ... ER...

TAYLOR'S THE NAME -- **GENE** TAYLOR! BUT DON'T TRY THANKING ME--IT WAS A **PLEASURE** TO HELP SOMEONE AS BEAUTIFUL--AND AS **SWEETLY HELPLESS** AS YOU!



HERE YOU ARE---
I'LL JUST LEAVE
THESE BUNDLES
HERE AND ---
MMM, THAT'S
A WONDERFUL
ODOR! WHAT'S
COOKING?

WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND
FIND OUT, MR. TAYLOR? IT'S
THE **LEAST** I COULD DO
TO REPAY YOU FOR
YOUR KINDNESS!



"It **WORKED!** And all during the meal,
I played up his manliness and my weak
helplessness for all it was worth!"

MY-- YOU REALLY
STOWED THAT
MEAL AWAY---
YOU'VE GOT THE
APPETITE OF A
REAL MAN!

YOUR DELICIOUS COOKING
CERTAINLY HELPED! BUT
SAY--- YOU'VE BEEN EATING
LIKE A **BIRD!** A BIG,
STRONG-LOOKING GIRL
LIKE YOU NEEDS MORE
NOURISHMENT
THAN **THAT!**



OH, I'M NOT REALLY
AS TALL OR STRONG
AS I SEEM TO BE!
-- HERE, WOULD YOU
MIND PUTTING THIS
HEAVY PRESSURE-
COOKER AWAY ON
THAT MIDDLE SHELF?
I-- I DON'T THINK
I COULD
MAKE IT!

SURE! NOW THAT
I REMEMBER ALL THE
TROUBLE YOU HAD
WITH THOSE PACKAGES,
I SEE THAT YOUR
APPEARANCE IS REALLY
DECEIVING -- THE ONLY
THING YOU'RE **NOT**
HELPLESS AT IS
COOKING A WONDERFUL
MEAL!



"Then, when I looked up at him with my
most demure, clinging-vine expression..."

YOU ... YOU'RE SWEET ... **LINDA!**
HOW ABOUT LETTING THE NEXT
MEAL BE ON **ME** -- AT DINNER
TOMORROW?

I... I'D
**LOVE TO---
GENE!**



"Glorious days slid by into rapturous
weeks, and through it all, I played
the part of the weak, helpless
female to perfection--- unable to
hit a golf ball, draw a bowstring back
or ride a horse! Yes, the only thing
I **COULD** do was fall deeper in love
with the man who had captured
my heart!"



"And then came that
magic night when I
learned about love and
kisses **FIRST-HAND!**
This was no rear-view
mirror, but I-- **LINDY
JACKSON** -- with the
man of my dreams! And
his lips told me that my
day had come at last--"

LINDA ---
DARLING!

OH, GENE ---
**I LOVE
YOU SO!**



BEING MARRIED TO YOU
WILL BE **HEAVEN**,
DEAREST-- WE'LL BE THE
HAPPIEST MARRIED
COUPLE IN
THE WORLD!

HUH?
M-MARRIED?
I-- I NEVER SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
THAT, LINDA!



YOU'RE SWEET AND LOVELY, AND I'VE ENJOYED DATING YOU --- BUT YOU... YOU'RE NOT QUITE THE KIND OF GIRL I'D WANT TO **MARRY!** YOU SEE, I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE, AND I'D HAVE TO HAVE A WIFE WHO'S AS SELF-RELIANT AS I AM --- WHO WOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO SHARE MY DANGERS WITH ME, AND WHO WOULDN'T BE TOO WEAK AND HELPLESS TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF IN CASE ANY OF THE HOODLUMS I'M AFTER TRIED TO STRIKE BACK AT ME THROUGH **HER!**

BUT
I...I...



YOU'RE THE HELPLESS, CLINGING-VINE TYPE --- I WOULDN'T DARE ASK YOU TO SHARE MY LIFE OF DANGER BY MARRYING ME! AND SPEAKING OF DANGER, I MAY HAVE MY FILL OF IT TOMORROW ON THAT HOT CASE I'M ON --- I'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP! GOOD-NIGHT, LINDA!

AND I... I DON'T **DARE** TELL HIM THAT I'M **NOT** THE CLINGING-VINE TYPE--- THAT I'M **EXACTLY** THE GIRL HE'S LOOKING FOR! HE'D NEVER BELIEVE ME --- HE'D JUST THINK I WAS HANDING HIM A LINE! OH, GENE... **GENE!**



"I tossed and turned that night in a torment of despair! All the men I **HADN'T** cared about had rejected me because I **WASN'T** a clinging vine --- and the only man in the world I could ever love had thrown my love back at me because he thought I **WAS!** I had to show him I was **MEANT** for him... I **HAD** to!"

I'VE GOT TO **PROVE** TO HIM THAT I'D BE THE PERFECT WIFE FOR A PRIVATE DETECTIVE --- BUT HOW---HOW? WAIT--- I'VE GOT IT! HE SAID HE'S ON A DANGEROUS CASE --- MAYBE IF I FOLLOWED HIM IN MY CAB TOMORROW, I MIGHT BE OF **USE** TO HIM!



"The next day, I found my heart pounding with excitement as I followed Gene's car into a dingy slum area ---"

HE'S PULLING UP TO THAT HOUSE --- I'D BETTER KEEP DRIVING AROUND THE BLOCK SO HE DOESN'T SUSPECT I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING HIM! OH, GENE, GENE--- **PLEASE** DON'T GET HURT!



"I returned -- to a shocking scene!"

BLAST HIM DOWN --- HE'LL NEVER TAKE **US!**

HE'S HIT, BUT WE CAN'T WAIT TO FINISH 'IM OFF--THE SHOTS WILL BRING THE COPS RUNNIN'! LET'S BEAT IT IN THE CAR --- **FAST!**



"Icy tentacles of fear ran shudderingly through my body as I drove straight into that hail of lead, but I **HAD** to do it--to prove to **MYSELF** that I was worthy of being Gene's wife!"

BLAST IT---THEY HIT MY TIRE! BUT MAYBE I CAN STILL CATCH UP TO THEM -- **TAXI!**



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY, DARLING --- "**FOLLOW THAT CAR!**"

LINDA--
YOU!





B-BUT YOU **COULDN'T** BE A CABBY--- YOU... YOU'RE JUST A WEAK, HELPLESS CLINGING-VINE!

WELL, THIS IS GOING TO PROVE THAT I'M **NOT**-- THAT I'D MAKE THE **PERFECT WIFE FOR YOU! HOLD ON!**



LINDA--- YOU'VE GONE MAD! --- **STOP!** THEY'RE FIRING RIGHT AT YOU--- I... I COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE THE **GIRL I LOVE** KILLED BECAUSE OF ME!

THANKS, DARLING--- THOSE WORDS ARE ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT I NEED! **HANG ON TO YOUR HAT-- I'M GOING TO SIDESWIPE THEM!**



"Every ounce of skill that I'd gained as a cab-driver went into my maneuver! And it took every ounce of courage to give the wheel that final twist that would make me either a dead heroine --or a live **WIFE!**"



DARLING --- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

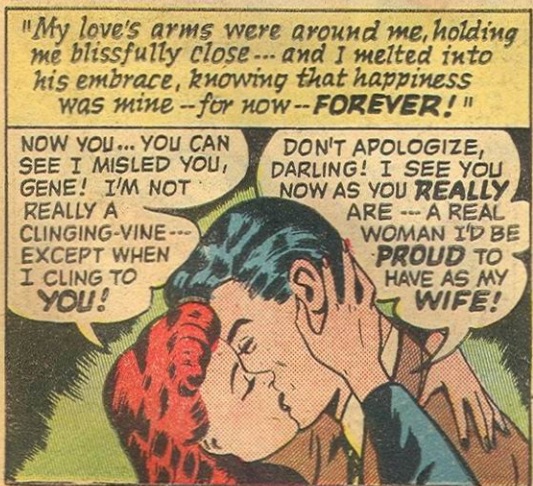
YES--- **LOOK OUT, GENE!**

YER NOT GITTIN' ME YET! THIS IS FER YOU!



WOW --- WHAT A GAL --- AND WHAT A **WIFE** FOR ME!

UGH!



"My love's arms were around me, holding me blissfully close --- and I melted into his embrace, knowing that happiness was mine --for now-- **FOREVER!**"

NOW YOU... YOU CAN SEE I MISLED YOU, GENE! I'M NOT REALLY A CLINGING-VINE--- EXCEPT WHEN I CLING TO **YOU!**

DON'T APOLOGIZE, DARLING! I SEE YOU NOW AS YOU **REALLY** ARE --- A REAL WOMAN I'D BE **PROUD** TO HAVE AS MY **WIFE!**



TAXI!

YESSIR, RIGHT HERE --- **OHH!** I... I FORGOT FOR A MOMENT THAT I'M NO LONGER DRIVING A HACK --- **THAT CUPID FINALLY HAILED A CABBY!**

The End

How HE PROPOSED

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR A MAN TO PROPOSE...AND **THIS** IS THE METHOD REVEALED BY MARY BETH WATSON OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA!

JOHN HUNTER NEVER SEEMED ABLE TO WORK UP THE COURAGE TO **PROPOSE**...AND I HAD THE FUNNY FEELING THAT IF HE EVER **DID** POP THE QUESTION, IT WOULDN'T BE IN THE ORDINARY MANNER...BUT IN SOME WAY **GUARANTEED** TO SUCCEED!

HELLO, DARLING...THIS IS **JOHN**! I JUST CALLED TO TELL YOU I LOVE YOU!

OH, YOU ADORABLE FOOL...IT'S **SWEET** OF YOU TO THINK OF ME THIS WAY! BUT IT IS RATHER LATE...SO GOOD-NIGHT, DARLING!

FINALLY, TOWARDS DAWN, WHEN MY PATIENCE HAD BEEN WORN TO A FRAZZLED EDGE...

JOHN, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS NONSENSE! I...I'M SO BLEARY-EYED AND TIRED, I'D DO **ANYTHING** FOR AN HOUR'S UNINTERRUPTED SLEEP!

ANYTHING? THEN HOW ABOUT AGREEING TO **MARRY** ME?

ONE NIGHT, AFTER I HAD BEGUN TO THINK I WOULD NEVER HEAR A PROPOSAL FROM HIM...

IT'S AFTER MID-NIGHT...WHO CAN THAT BE?

RR-RING!

BUT I **DIDN'T** THINK IT WAS SO SWEET WHEN HE KEPT CALLING ME UP TO TELL ME HE LOVED ME... HOUR AFTER HOUR, ALL NIGHT LONG!

WHAT COULD I DO BUT SAY **YES**? AND BELIEVE ME, I'VE NEVER REGRETTED IT!

THAT'S HOW **JOHN HUNTER** POPPED THE QUESTION TO **MARY BETH WATSON**! AND NOW, HOW ABOUT WRITING TO TELL US HOW THE MAN IN YOUR LIFE PROPOSED TO YOU?

Are you LISTENIN'?

MARJORIE'S first moment of fear came the instant she accepted the invitation to Joan's sweet sixteen party. She *couldn't* refuse! She and Joan were best friends. And yet, Marjorie dreaded the party as though it offered some terrible threat.

"What'll I say? What'll I talk about?" she asked herself anxiously as she walked the block to Joan's house, noting the brightly lit windows, the dancing figures of boys and girls.

For Marjorie was desperately, painfully shy. When other girls giggled or laughed heartily, following up a clever remark with an even cleverer one, she longed with all her heart to do the same. Instead, however, she seemed to freeze inside, and her tongue seemed to stick to the roof of her mouth.

"Hi, Marge, you look scrumptious!" Joan greeted her happily. In a quieter voice, she added, "Bill Drake's here!"

Marjorie's eyes widened. Bill Drake. He was...well...plain wonderful! He was the kind of boy Marjorie wanted so much to go out with, to have good times with. In fact, he *was* the boy! If only...if only...

It was almost as though wishful thinking had done the trick. Coming through the crowd, directly towards her, was Bill Drake. And he was smiling at her!

Marjorie's great moment of panic came the instant she realized that Bill Drake meant to talk to her. "Hi," he said, seating himself beside her. When she returned his greeting, her own voice seemed strange and far-away.

Bill didn't seem to notice her panic at all. Blithely, he plung-

ed into an account of the latest club meeting. "It was an election meeting, you know," he was saying, "and there was some pretty tough competition for the presidency. I was running for president against Chubby Marks."

Marjorie knew she was expected to say something, but she could not think of anything flattering or funny. Instead, she managed to gulp, "You were?"

"We had a campaign and everything," Bill continued. "And when the ballots were cast..."

Bill's story lasted for a half-hour, during which time Marjorie found herself saying dumb things like "Honestly?" or "Really?" or "How interesting!"

"And when the votes were finally counted," Bill finished up, "we had a tied score and Chubby and I are going to be alternate presidents!"

To her intense astonishment, Marjorie found herself laughing quite easily as Bill brought his story to a close. If only she could think of a story to tell Bill, an even funnier one! After all, she had said almost nothing all this time. Bill must be thinking how dull she was.

But Bill had quite another thought. "You know something?" he said. "I never realized it before, but you're a terrific conversationalist! Are you, by any chance, dating anybody in town steadily?"

Happily, Marjorie shook her head. She hadn't spoken well, but she had *listened* beautifully...and that seemed to be absolutely okay with Bill Drake!

Courageous HEART

SHE'S...
LOVELY!
IF ONLY SHE
HAD A HEART
... INSTEAD
OF THAT
WHIP!



LORA MORELLI, QUEEN OF THE BIG TOP! THAT WAS I, AND I GLORIED IN IT! FOR I WAS STRONG AND UNAFRAID, EXULTING IN MY MASTERY OVER THE WILD BEASTS OF THE JUNGLE! THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I DESPISED... WEAKNESS... AND ONLY ONE THING I LACKED... LOVE!

"LIPPLAUSE AND ADMIRATION WERE MINE... YET WHY DID I FEEL A PANG OF JEALOUSY BEFORE THE SOFT FEMININITY OF CLARABELLE, THE CIRCUS'S BAREBACK RIDER?"

THOSE MEN--FLUTTERING AROUND HER LIKE MOTHS! THERE ISN'T ONE OF THEM WORTHY OF MY LOVE!



WHY SHOULD SHE MAKE ME FEEL THE WAY I DO? ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT I'M FAMOUS? IT CAN'T BE THAT I'M LONGING FOR KISSES AND ROMANCE... LIKE OTHER GIRLS!



"NO... THAT WOULD BE WEAKNESS! AND LORA MORELLI WAS STRONG!"

I MUSTN'T FORGET WHAT DAD TAUGHT ME! "FEARLESSNESS IS WHAT COUNTS! IN THE CASE OR IN LIFE... THE WORLD IS FOR THE STRONG!"... WELL, BETTER BE GOING! TOM BRITTON'S WAITING TO PAINT MY PORTRAIT FOR THE NEW CIRCUS POSTER!



LORA...I'VE BEEN WAITING! BUT IT'S WORTH IT...YOU'RE **BEAUTIFUL!**

GLAD YOU THINK SO, TOM! YOU'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN IT INTO YOUR PICTURES OF ME...AND THEY'VE HELPED SPREAD MY FAME!

"TOM'S ADMIRATION LIT A SMALL GLOW IN MY HEART... BUT QUICKLY, I SNUFFED IT OUT! WHAT WAS HE BUT A BIG TOP ARTIST, A WEAK DREAMER? THERE WAS NO ROOM IN MY LIFE FOR HIM! I WATCHED HIM AS HE SKETCHED EAGERLY..."

ALMOST FINISHED NOW...AND IT'S A **DARB!** LORA...IT'S BECAUSE I BRING...**LOVE** TO MY WORK!

SKIP IT, HUH? LET'S KEEP THINGS STRICTLY BUSINESS...I'VE GOT NO PATIENCE FOR **THAT** TYPE OF NONSENSE!

IS IT NONSENSE TO BE HEAD-OVER-HEELS ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE LOVELY NOW... BUT YOU'D BE **RAVISHING** IF SOMEONE COULD AWAKEN THAT **HEART** OF YOURS!

HOW **DARE** YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO ME? ONE MORE WORD OF IT AND I...I'LL NEVER COME NEAR YOU AGAIN!

OH PLEASE, LORRIE... LET'S NOT QUARREL! HONEST, I'LL BE GOOD! YOU'RE TIRED, SO WHY NOT LET'S HAVE SOME FUN? WE'LL GO OUT AND MINGLE WITH THE CROWDS...AS IF WE WERE TWO KIDS COME TO THE CIRCUS!

IT SOUNDS **SILLY**... BUT...

"**WHY** DID I GIVE IN? I DON'T KNOW...BUT IT **WAS** FUN!"

I CAN'T HELP IT, BUT I LOVE THE CIRCUS...THE MAKE-BELIEVE OF IT...

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS... SEE THE WONDER OF WONDERS...

TOM, YOU'RE AN INCURABLE DREAMER...AND A **CHILD!** THERE'S NO MAKE-BELIEVE IN THE CAGE WITH THE CATS... **THEY'RE REAL!** BUT THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU! YOU'RE **AFRAID OF REAL DANGER**... AND THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS!

"DANCING, LATER, I FOUND A SURPRISING, BUT TENDER MAGIC IN TOM'S ARMS! THIS WAS WEAKNESS... THIS I MUST SHUN!"

IT'S WONDERFUL DANCING WITH YOU, LORA! YOU... YOU'VE GOT THE GRACE OF YOUR JUNGLE CATS!

ER... WHICH REMINDS ME... I ALWAYS CHECK UP ON THEM AROUND THIS TIME EVERY NIGHT! WE'D BETTER GO... PRONTO!



TOM! THAT CAGE DOOR... IT'S OPEN!

L-LORA! TH-THOSE YELLOW EYES STARING AT US... FROM OUT OF THE BUSH...



UHP!

DON'T ACT SCARED, YOU FOOL... OR YOU'RE LOST! ...BACK, REX, BACK! DO YOU HEAR?



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT OUT... BUT BACK YOU GO!... THERE!

I... I CAN'T LOOK! SUPPOSE SOMETHING... WERE TO HAPPEN TO HER?



IT'S ALL OVER! BUT LOOK AT YOU... SPINELESS... WEAK! DO YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?

WOULDN'T... ANYONE BE AFRAID OF A LION? BESIDES, I'VE GOT MY OWN KIND OF STRENGTH, LORA... AND IT'S SOMETHING YOU NEED!



"I HADN'T EXPECTED WHAT HAPPENED THEN! SUDDENLY HE SEIZED ME... AND A TREMOR SHOOK ME AS HIS LIPS PRESSED URGENTLY TO MINE!"

SOMETHING YOU NEED... SOMETHING I COULD GIVE YOU IF YOU LET ME! LOVE!

TOM! STOP...



"IT WAS RIDICULOUS! THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD GIVE ME... FOR I COULDN'T EVER LOVE A COWARD! THAT'S WHY I AVOIDED TOM BRITTON AFTER THAT... WONDERING AT THE CURIOUS EMPTINESS WHICH LURKED IN MY HEART! BUT THEN I SAW LOPEZ, THE NEW TIGHT-ROPE WALKER... AND ALL THOUGHTS OF EMPTINESS VANISHED!"

LA-DEEZ...AND GENTLEMEN!
PRESENTING **LOPEZ...THE WONDER
OF TWO CONTINENTS!** WITHOUT A
NET, HE WILL PERFORM THE MOST BREATH-
TAKING, DAREDEVIL FEATS EVER...

GOLLY, WHAT A
MAN! HE'S...
MAGNIFICENT!

"I OUTDID MYSELF IN THE CAGE THAT DAY...HOPING THE
NEWCOMER MIGHT NOTICE ME..."

I COULDN'T TAKE MY
EYES OFF YOU FOR A
SECOND, MISS MORELL!!
YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS
GREAT!

THANKS, LOPEZ!
COMING FROM YOU,
THAT'S... **SATAN!
BACK!**



NO...DON'T USE THAT GOAD
ON HIM! IT'S **DANGEROUS!**

HA-HA! I'LL MAKE THE
BLACK DEVIL RESPECT ME!
LOPEZ FEARS **NOTHING**...
...MAN NOR BEAST!



"THIS WAS A **MAN**...AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON,
I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM! I WAS FASCINATED BY HIS
DARING, HIS GALLANTRY...BY THE FERVOR OF HIS
KISSES..."

IT'S...WONDERFUL
BEING WITH YOU! BUT
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS
PREFER **HIGH**
PLACES?

I DO...AND YOU WILL!
WE **BELONG** TO THE
HEIGHTS, LORA! **KING
AND QUEEN OF THE
BIG TOP... THAT'S
US!**



AND YOU'RE...
**QUEEN OF MY
HEART!** YOU'RE
EVERYTHING A MAN
DREAMS OF...

DEAREST...



The next week...

WE'LL GO
PLACES, YOU
AND I...
DEPEND
ON IT!

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
INTRUDE...BUT
I'D LIKE YOU TO
POSE FOR SOME
NEW POSTERS,
LORA!



STRANGE...YOU'RE
LOOKING MORE
RADIANT THAN EVER.
BUT THERE'S SOME-
THING **INSIDE**
THAT'S GONE!

THAT'S
JEALOUSY
SPEAKING...
AND IT'S JUST
FUNNY! WHY,
NEXT TO LOPEZ,
YOU'RE JUST A
MOUSE!



A MOUSE, AM I? MAYBE... BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LIKE **THAT** TIGHT-ROPE ROMEO FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!

HE'S THE MAN I LOVE... AND I'M GOING TO HIM NOW!

"MY HEART BEAT FASTER, FASTER, AS I APPROACHED HIS TENT... AND THEN... THE SHOCK OF MY LIFE!"

HE'S THERE, BUT... **THERE'S A WOMAN IN HIS ARMS!**



YOU... YOU **TRAITOR!** SO YOU'RE TWO-TIMING ME... WITH THAT STUPID LITTLE FLIRT CLARABELLE!

LORA! YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME **EXPLAIN!**

"I COULDN'T RESTRAIN THE HEART-BROKEN WORDS THAT TUMBLED FROM MY LIPS..."

EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY TRUST, MY FAITH IN YOU? WHAT CAN YOU **EVER** TELL ME TO SET THINGS RIGHT AGAIN?

IT... IT WAS A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS... SHE PRACTICALLY **FORCED** ME INTO IT! BUT SHE MEANS NOTHING TO ME... IT'S **YOU** I LOVE, I SWEAR IT! PLEASE... **FORGIVE ME!**



"WHO THOUGHT I WAS STRONG... I GAVE IN LIKE A WEAKLING BEFORE HIS INTENSE MAGNETISM! BUT I WATCHED HIS EVERY MOVEMENT AFTER THAT..."

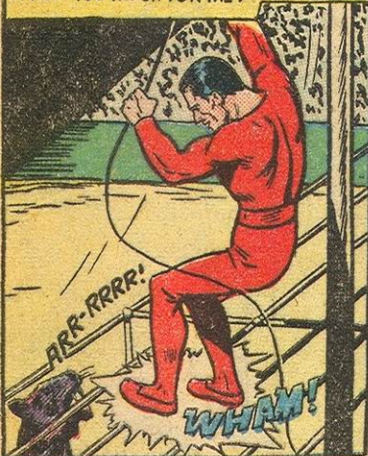
HA-HA! DON'T LIKE ME JUMPING ONTO YOUR CAGE, DO YOU, YOU BRUTE? GO AHEAD, SNARL... **SNARL!**

PLEASE, DEAR... DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO MAKE THOSE ANIMALS EXCITED BEFORE I GO INTO THE BIG CAGE WITH THEM! IT'S **DANGEROUS!**

WHY, OF **COURSE**, DARLING! I WOULDN'T ENDANGER **YOU** FOR THE WORLD!



"BUT NEXT NIGHT, BEFORE MY PERFORMANCE, IT HAPPENED AGAIN! WHY WAS HE ATTEMPTING TO ENRAGE SATAN THAT WAY? IT COULDN'T BE DELIBERATE...HE CARED TOO MUCH FOR ME!"



PLEASE EXCUSE ME, LORA...IT WAS AN ACCIDENT AGAIN! YOU SEE, I'M TOO DISTRACTED BY THOUGHTS OF YOU...I'M GETTING CLUMSY!



"BUT THE DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE! SATAN WAS A DEVIL OF MALIGNANT RAGE...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I KNEW THE STIRRINGS OF FEAR!"

BACK, SATAN...
BACK!
...HE...HE'S NEVER DISOBEYED ME BEFORE!



"IN THE DISTANCE, I CAUGHT SIGHT OF LOPEZ TENDERLY LIFTING CLARABELLE...AND THAT DID IT! YES, I LOST MY CONTROL...AND ONLY SWUNG MY HEAD BACK TOWARDS SATAN IN TIME TO SEE..."

SATAN! GET BACK! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!



"BUT NEXT MOMENT..."

HE...MEANS IT...HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!...HELP!
HELP!



"I KNEW THE HORROR OF CLAWS AND RENDING TEETH! THERE WERE SHOUTS, GUNSHOTS...AS I SANK INTO THE ABYSS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS!"

WE'VE GOT 'EM UNDER CONTROL! SEE IF THE GIRL'S STILL ALIVE!



"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THE BLACK AGONY LASTED, WITH NIGHTMARE CATS HAUNTING MY DREAMS! SLOWLY, SLOWLY I CAME TO...TO THE SIGHT OF A MAN AT MY BED-SIDE! WHY WASN'T IT...LOPEZ?"



TOM---IT'S YOU! WHAT... HAPPENED?

YOU'VE BEEN MAULED A BIT--- BUT YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT! TRY TO REST NOW---YOU'LL BE UP AND AROUND IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS!

BUT LORA, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME--- **THIS WAS LOPEZ' FAULT!** HE CAUSED IT TO GET YOU OUT OF THE WAY---SO HE COULD BE THE CIRCUS'S TOP STAR! HE'S **JEALOUS** OF YOU!

YOU... **LIAR!** IT'S... **YOU** THAT'S JEALOUS! **GET OUT... OF HERE...**



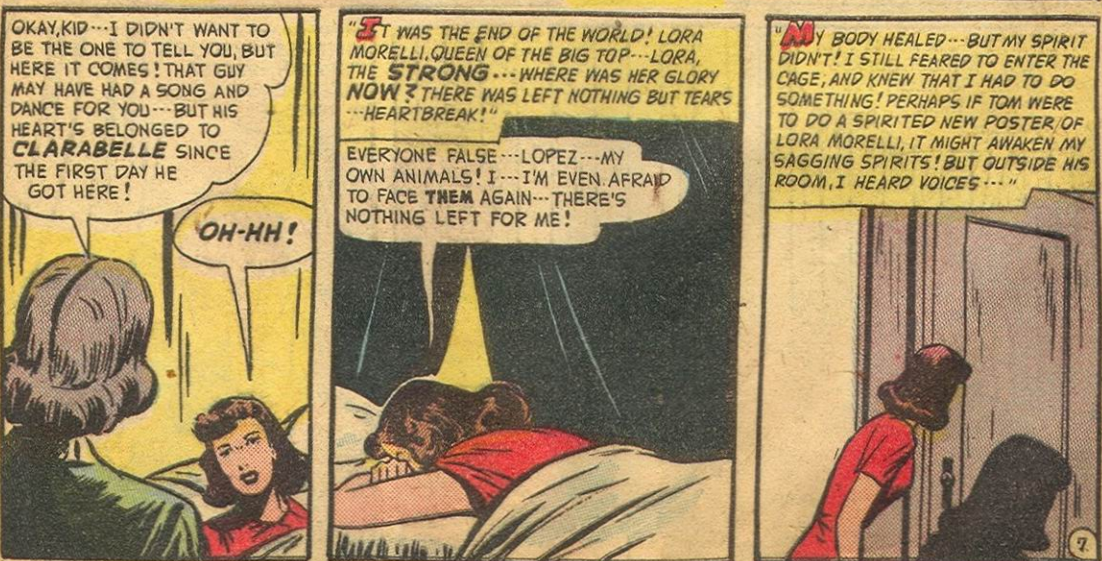
"**IT** MUST HAVE BEEN WEARY DAYS LATER THAT--"

SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME! IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD, TEARING YOURSELF AWAY FROM CLARABELLE---

YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR TO ME! MAYBE APPEARANCES ARE AGAINST ME--- BUT YOU **KNOW** I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

"**HE** DIDN'T RETURN TO VISIT ME! I TRIED HARD TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT HE WASN'T FALSE, THAT I WASN'T AN UTTER FOOL TO LOVE HIM---

THANKS FOR THE BOOKS, MIRIAM---YOU'RE A **PAL!** ER---TELL ME---HAVE YOU SEEN **LOPEZ?**



OKAY, KID---I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU, BUT HERE IT COMES! THAT GUY MAY HAVE HAD A SONG AND DANCE FOR YOU---BUT HIS HEART'S BELONGED TO **CLARABELLE** SINCE THE FIRST DAY HE GOT HERE!

OH-HH!

"**IT** WAS THE END OF THE WORLD! LORA MORELLI, QUEEN OF THE BIG TOP---LORA, THE **STRONG**---WHERE WAS HER GLORY NOW? THERE WAS LEFT NOTHING BUT TEARS---HEARTBREAK!"

EVERYONE FALSE---LOPEZ---MY OWN ANIMALS! I---I'M EVEN AFRAID TO FACE THEM AGAIN---THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME!

"**MY** BODY HEALED---BUT MY SPIRIT DIDN'T! I STILL FEARED TO ENTER THE CAGE, AND KNEW THAT I HAD TO DO SOMETHING! PERHAPS IF TOM WERE TO DO A SPIRITED NEW POSTER OF LORA MORELLI, IT MIGHT AWAKEN MY SAGGING SPIRITS! BUT OUTSIDE HIS ROOM, I HEARD VOICES---



I WANT THIS ONE CAPTIONED **LOPEZ, KING OF THE CIRCUS!** I'M THE STAR HERE NOW, WITH LORA OUT OF THE RUNNING!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! WHY, SHE'S WORTH A DOZEN OF YOU!



WHAT... STILL CARRYING THE TORCH FOR THAT HAS-BEEN... AFTER THE WAY SHE'S TREATED YOU? WHY, I... ULP! LORA!

I... I'M GLAD I GOT HERE WHEN I DID!



MAYBE I AM A HAS-BEEN... THANKS TO YOU, YOU ROTTEN SCHEMER! YOU STIRRED UP THAT BLACK PANTHER SATAN **PURPOSELY**. DIDN'T YOU?

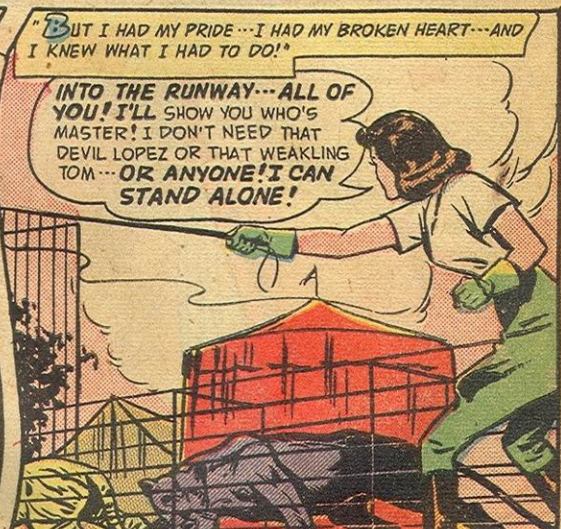
TRY PROVING IT, SWEET-HEART! ANYWAY, YOU'RE **FINISHED!** YOU CAN'T FACE THOSE CATS AND YOU KNOW IT!



"THE CHALLENGE WAS CAST! I HAD TO ACT... TO PROVE TO HIM... TO PROVE TO MYSELF!"

I CAN'T, EH? I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S AFRAID!

LORA... DON'T! KEEP AWAY FROM THOSE BEASTS... YOU'RE NOT WELL YET!



"BUT I HAD MY PRIDE... I HAD MY BROKEN HEART... AND I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO!"

INTO THE RUNWAY... ALL OF YOU! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S MASTER! I DON'T NEED THAT DEVIL LOPEZ OR THAT WEAKLING TOM... OR ANYONE! I CAN STAND ALONE!



THERE! I... I'M ALONE WITH THEM NOW... WITHOUT GUARDS... WITH NO ONE TO HELP! I'VE GOT TO FACE THEM... MYSELF!



WHAT'S SHE UP TO? I'M WORRIED... BETTER HIDE HERE AND WATCH!



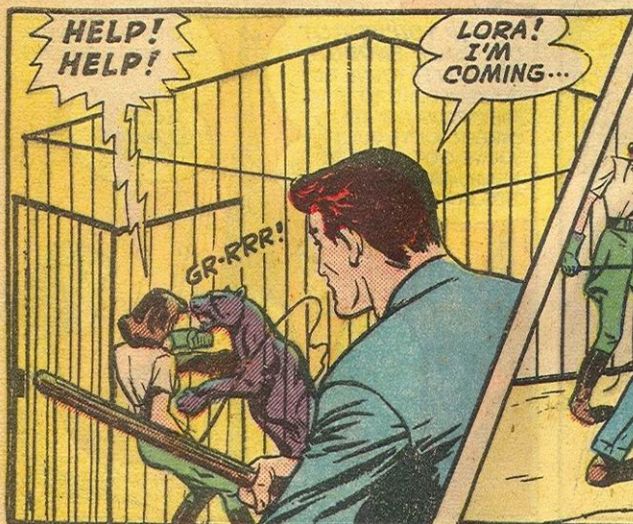
ALL RIGHT, SATAN...**YOU!**
YOU ALMOST KILLED ME
ONCE...**LET'S SEE IF**
YOU CAN DO IT
AGAIN!



"I WAS DESPERATE, LITTLE CARING WHAT HAPPENED
TO ME...FOR WHAT USE WAS LIFE WITHOUT THE MAN
I HAD LOVED? AND THEN SATAN LUNGED... AND PANIC
TOLD ME THAT LIFE WAS STILL
DEAR!"

NO, NO...GET
BACK! BACK!
...I...I CAN'T HOLD
HIM OFF!

ARR-RROW!



HELP!
HELP!

LORA!
I'M
COMING...

GR-RRR!



TAKE THAT
...YOU
DEMON!



TOM...QUICK! THE
OTHER ANIMALS...
THEY'RE SET TO
RUSH US...

JUST...HOLD
THE DOOR
OPEN FOR ME!
I WON'T...BUDGE
OUT OF HERE
UNTIL **YOU'RE**
SAFELY OUT!



OH, TOM, TOM
...WHAT A
FOOL I'VE
BEEN!

UH-HUH...BUT
YOU'RE SAFE
NOW, AND THAT'S
WHAT COUNTS!



IT...IT TOOK
COURAGE
TO FACE THOSE
ANIMALS! WHAT
CHANGED
YOU SO?

SUPPOSE WE
SAY THAT YOU
WERE IN DANGER
...THAT YOU
NEEDED
ME!

I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW... I NEED YOU TOO! I'M AFRAID TO FACE THE CATS AGAIN... I NEED YOUR KIND OF STRENGTH... YOUR LOVE!

IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT NOW, ISN'T IT? IF I'M ONLY GOOD WHEN YOU'VE LOST YOUR COURAGE AND LOPEZ... I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF YOU!

"NOW I KNEW REAL GRIEF AND DESOLATION... AND THE PANG OF EMPTY DAYS... FOR I'D THROWN AWAY MY CHANCE FOR TRUE LOVE!"

I WAS PROUD, ARROGANT... AND NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT! CAREER, ROMANCE... EVERYTHING GONE! I'VE... MADE A MESS OF EVERYTHING...

I'VE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, LORA... FROM TOM! HE'S LEAVING THE CIRCUS... AND ASKED ME TO SAY GOODBYE!

LEAVING... WITHOUT EVEN GIVING ME A CHANCE FOR FORGIVENESS? WELL... I GUESS THAT ENDS IT...



ENDS IT? ONLY IF YOU'RE COWARD ENOUGH TO GIVE IN! YOU'VE RIDICULED HIM, HURT HIS PRIDE... AND NOW YOU'RE FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF! YOU'RE READY TO CONCEDE DEFEAT... WITHOUT EVEN FIGHTING!

YOU MEAN... THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO?



YES... IF YOU'VE GOT COURAGE ENOUGH TO DO IT! YOU'VE GOT TO BE WILLING TO LEAVE THE CIRCUS AND THE CAREER YOU'VE BUILT! YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM, HUMBLE YOURSELF, BEG HIS FORGIVENESS!

THERE'S... HOPE FOR ME, MIRIAM! FOR THE FIRST TIME... I FEEL MY NERVE COMING BACK!



"COULD THIS BE ME, LORA MORELLI, PROUD QUEEN OF THE BIG TOP... BEGGING FOR A CHANCE AT LIFE ITSELF?"

HONEY, I'VE BEEN WAITING TO HEAR THAT!

OH, TOM, TOM, I'VE NO PRIDE LEFT! ALL I HAVE IS MY WOMAN'S HEART... AND IT'S BEATING FOR YOU! IT'S TELLING ME WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN... AND WHAT A WONDERFUL GUY YOU ARE! PLEASE... GIVE ME A CHANCE!



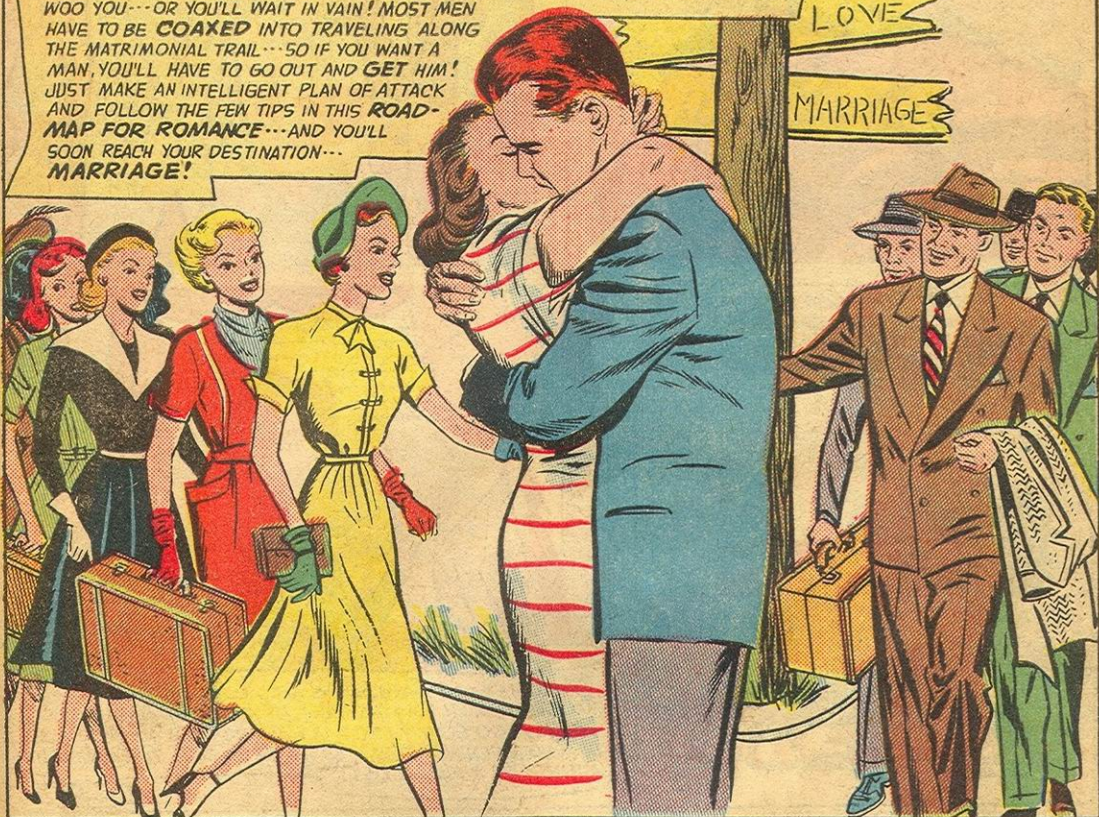
"I GUESS THAT'S ALL THERE IS, READER! BEFORE US STRETCHED A LIFE OF SOFTLY GLOWING HAPPINESS! YES, IT WOULD BE LORA MORELLI, HOUSEWIFE, FROM NOW ON... BUT I'D HAVE LOVE... AND I WANTED NOTHING MORE!"



The END!

Roadmap to ROMANCE

YOU'RE EAGERLY HOPING FOR THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE...BUT DON'T JUST SIT HOME AND WAIT FOR MR. RIGHT TO DISCOVER AND WOO YOU...OR YOU'LL WAIT IN VAIN! MOST MEN HAVE TO BE COAXED INTO TRAVELING ALONG THE MATRIMONIAL TRAIL...SO IF YOU WANT A MAN, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO OUT AND GET HIM! JUST MAKE AN INTELLIGENT PLAN OF ATTACK AND FOLLOW THE FEW TIPS IN THIS ROAD-MAP FOR ROMANCE...AND YOU'LL SOON REACH YOUR DESTINATION...MARRIAGE!



FIRST, EXHAUST ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ROMANCE IN YOUR OWN HOME TOWN! JOIN COMMUNITY AND CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEER TO ORGANIZE BAZAARS AND FAIRS...AND YOU'LL SOON FIND THE ELIGIBLE YOUNG MEN BEING DRAWN BY YOUR LIVELINESS AND VIVACITY...AND FLOCKING AROUND YOU!



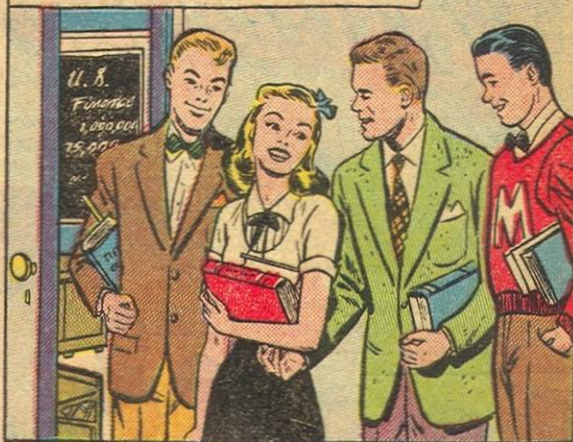
IF YOU'RE ATHLETICALLY INCLINED, TAKE LESSONS IN YOUR FAVORITE SPORT UNTIL YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT IT...AND THEN GO WHERE YOU CAN MEET MALE SPORT FANS! THERE'S SOMETHING IRRESISTIBLE ABOUT A GIRL IN WHITE TENNIS SHORTS, OR ONE WHO SWOOPS DOWN A SKI-SLOPE WITH FLUSHED CHEEKS AND SPARKLING EYES...AND THAT GIRL CAN BE YOU!



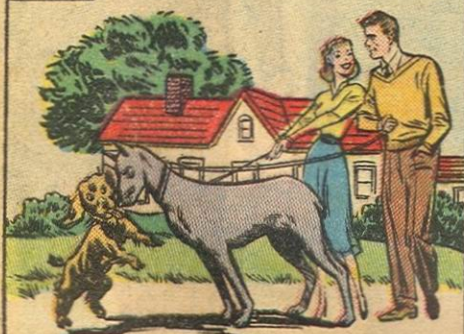
DEVELOP A HOBBY...PREFERABLY ONE THAT'S JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THE AVERAGE INERT FEMALE, SO THAT YOU'LL HAVE THE MALE HOBBYISTS ALL TO YOURSELF! SOME GROUPS IN WHICH YOU'LL FIND MORE MEN THAN GIRLS ARE CAMERA CLUBS, HIKING ORGANIZATIONS AND STAMP-COLLECTING CLUBS...BUT YOU CAN'T JOIN THESE JUST BY SITTING HOME AND MOPING!



SO, IF YOUR INTERESTS ARE MORE OF THE INTELLECTUAL TYPE, WHY NOT TAKE A COURSE OR TWO AT NIGHT SCHOOL? YOU'LL FIND VERY FEW GIRLS THERE TO COMPETE WITH YOU...BUT PLENTY OF MEN TO ADMIRE YOU!



IF YOU LIKE DOGS OR OTHER PETS, BY ALL MEANS GET ONE...BECAUSE TWO PEOPLE WITH DOGS IMMEDIATELY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON, AND CAN FIND A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! IF THE LOCAL BOY YOU'VE BEEN DYING TO MEET IS A DOG-LOVER, TOO, YOU CAN LET YOUR CANINES INTRODUCE YOU TO EACH OTHER!



YOUR MARRIED FRIENDS CAN ALSO COME IN HANDY...BECAUSE MARRIED WOMEN LOVE THE ROLE OF MATCH-MAKING, AND WILL BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO HELP IF YOU ASK THEM TO KEEP YOU IN MIND WHENEVER THEY NEED AN EXTRA GIRL TO ROUND OUT A PARTY OR A DINNER LIST!

YOUR FRIENDS CAN ALSO BE USEFUL AS ARRANGERS OF BLIND DATES...AND IF THEY TAKE PAINS TO PAIR YOU OFF WITH SOMEONE THEY KNOW IS YOUR TYPE, THE BLIND DATE MAY WELL PROVE TO BE AN EYE-OPENER!



IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU MAY GET A JOB IN AN OFFICE WHERE THERE ARE ELIGIBLE SINGLE MEN...BUT DON'T LET YOUR HUSBAND-HUNTING INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK, OR YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF WITHOUT A HUSBAND AND WITHOUT A JOB!



NEVER BE SO DESPERATELY ANXIOUS FOR A DATE THAT YOU SUCCUMB TO THIS CRUDE TYPE OF PICKUP APPROACH...OR YOU'LL RUE THE DAY!



HI-YA, BABE...
WHERE'VE YOU
BEEN ALL MY
LIFE?

GOSH...ISNT
THAT A
MAGNIFICENT
SUNSET?



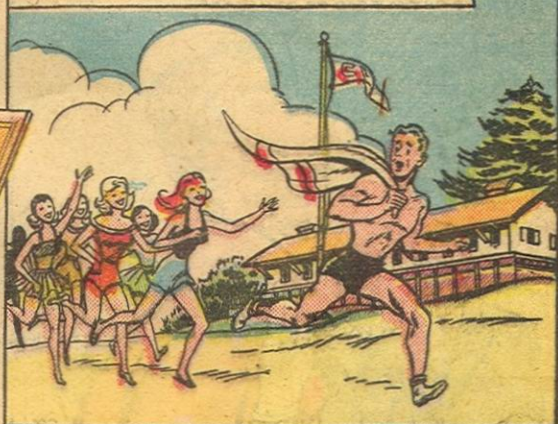
YES...IT...IT'S
BEAUTIFUL!

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO BE FRIGHTENED OFF BY A PLEASANT-LOOKING YOUNG MAN WHO STRIKES UP A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION! OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AND ASK SOME DISCREET QUESTIONS...BUT ONCE YOU'RE SURE OF HIS CHARACTER, YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DIDN'T NIP A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP IN THE BUD!

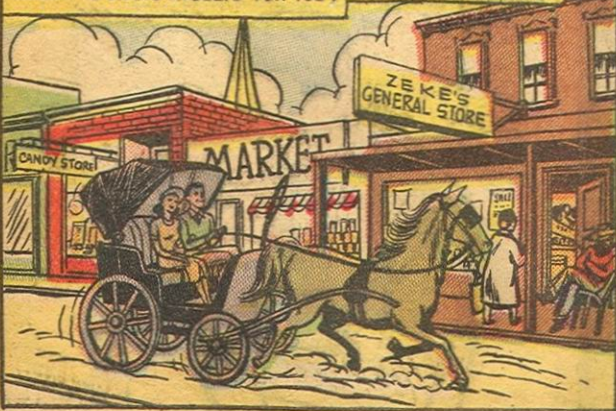


ONE OF THE BEST MATRIMONIAL POSSIBILITIES IS THE TORCH-CARRIER...THE MAN WHO'S JUST BEEN JILTED, AND WHO'S IN NEED OF AFFECTION AND SYMPATHY! IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THE GUY, AND YOU COME ALONG JUST WHEN HE NEEDS YOU MOST, HE'LL SOON BE CARRYING THE TORCH FOR YOU!

SUMMER RESORTS THAT ARE CROWDED WITH DESIGNING, HUSBAND-HUNTING GIRLS ARE PRETTY POOR BETS! EVERY GIRL THERE KNOWS WHAT EVERY OTHER GIRL IS LOOKING FOR...AND THE COMPETITION IS LIKELY TO BE BRUTAL!



INSTEAD OF SPENDING YOUR SAVINGS ON SOME EXPENSIVE RESORT, WHY NOT VISIT THOSE RELATIVES IN THAT SMALL, ONE-HORSE TOWN? A VISITING GIRL BRINGS NOVELTY...AND SHE'S LIKELY TO TAKE THE MOST PRIZED YOUNG MAN RIGHT AWAY FROM THE LOCAL BELLE! IF YOU LIKE LIVING IN A SMALL TOWN, THIS TECHNIQUE OUGHT TO BRING RESULTS FOR YOU!



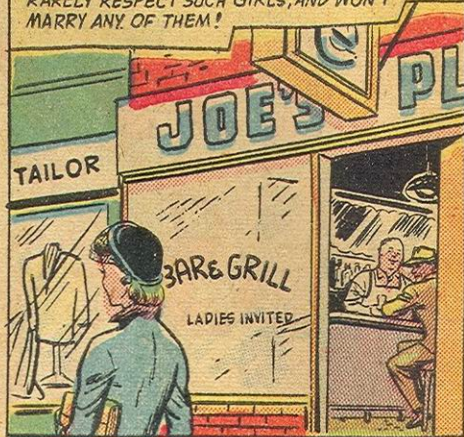
STILL UNMARRIED? THEN GO WEST, YOUNG GIRL...GO WEST! IN MOST OF THE EASTERN STATES, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH MEN TO GO AROUND FOR ALL THE WOMEN, AND OLD MAIDS ARE ONLY TOO COMMON! BUT OUT WEST, IN STATES LIKE MONTANA, WYOMING AND WASHINGTON, THE MEN OUTNUMBER THE WOMEN BY FAR! SO LOOK IT UP IN YOUR WORLD ALMANAC, PICK YOUR STATE...AND GO GET YOUR MAN!



THINKING OF GOING TO COLLEGE? THEN RUN, DON'T WALK, TO A UNIVERSITY IN THE WEST OR MID-WEST! THERE, YOU'LL FIND COMPETITION AT AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM...AND MEN WHO ARE THE CREAM OF THE COUNTRY'S CROP, WITH EXCELLENT FUTURES AHEAD OF THEM!



BUT NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, STAY AWAY FROM BARS AND COCKTAIL LOUNGES! THE MEN WHO PICK UP GIRLS IN COCKTAIL BARS WILL BUY THEM DRINKS AND CHAT WITH THEM... BUT THEY RARELY RESPECT SUCH GIRLS, AND WON'T MARRY ANY OF THEM!



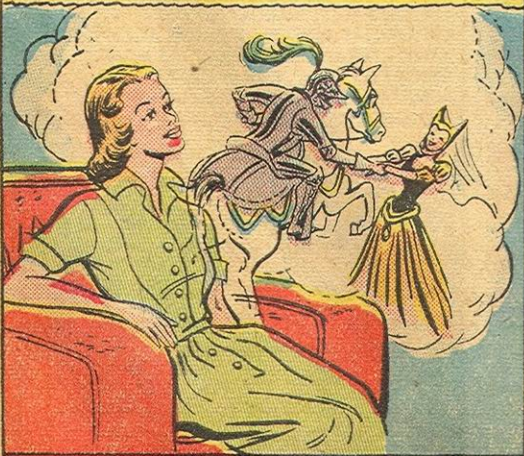
AND WHEREVER YOU ARE, MAKE SURE YOU'RE WELL GROOMED AND DAINTY...AND NEVER, NEVER MAKE THE MISTAKE OF WEARING TOO MUCH MAKEUP OR A TOO HEAVY PERFUME...OR YOU'LL FIND THAT YOU'VE TAKEN A DETOUR ON THE ROAD TO ROMANCE!



ONCE YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR MAN, ALWAYS BE APPROPRIATELY DRESSED...AND NEVER OVERDRESSED! WHEN A MAN ASKS A GIRL TO AN INFORMAL, CASUAL GATHERING AND SHE SHOWS UP IN AN ELABORATE PARTY DRESS, LOOKING MADE-UP TO KILL...SHE'S JUST KILLED HER CHANCE FOR ROMANCE!



SO, INSTEAD OF SITTING HOME AND DREAMING OF YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR GALLOPING UP AND CARRYING YOU OFF TO HIS ENCHANTED CASTLE...



...DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR MATE, BUT TRAVEL THE ROYAL ROAD TO ROMANCE BY GOING WHERE MEN ARE AND LETTING THEM KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE! FROM THEN ON, JUST LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE...AND HAVE A HAPPY HONEY-MOON!



THE END!

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the queen
of the rink!



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Scroll braid
that glitters
like gold on
two-tone rayon
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You'll be the most
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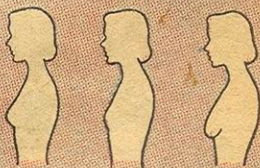


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- Please enter my attached drawing in your November drawing contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

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State _____ Occupation _____

Amateurs Only! Our students not eligible. Make copy of girl 5 ins. high. Pencil or pen only. Omit the lettering. All drawings must be received by Nov. 30, 1950. None returned. Winners notified.

Latest Winner List! Free course winners in previous contest—from list just released:
F. Roland, Box 917, Monroe, N. Y.; L. Wise, 204 Watts, Portsmouth, Va.; S. Frey, 19974 Negaunee, Detroit, Mich.; E. Sitarek, 34 Cummings, Irvington, N. J.; B. Abramowski, 3141 33rd, Astoria, L. I., N. Y.

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